

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
JULY 1, 2007 through SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/02/07 5am :30

A birthday celebration becomes the scene of a Melee. This time, it ends with the stabbing of several party-goers. A brawl broke out on Copley Terrace around 3:00 Sunday morning. Six people were hospitalized after being stabbed. Police want to find the people responsible for the stabbing spree. The six should fully recover from their injuries.

News 07/02/07 5am :30

A man was making a pizza delivery to a home on Fort Pleasant Avenue early yesterday morning two men asked him for a cigarette. They then beat him and took nearly \$200 along with the man's cell phone.

News 07/02/07 5pm :30

A Wilbraham woman convicted of soliciting someone to murder her husband has been sentenced to six months in jail. 45 year old Donna Wolcott was also given two years probation. Her husband Jeffrey Wolcott, who has since filed for divorce, was in the courtroom to hear the sentence. The woman's attorney had argued for no jail time. Wolcott was also convicted of violating a restraining order taken out by her husband. Her attorney says she's appealing the conviction and claims the specific words Mrs. Wolcott used could not be considered solicitation as defined by the law.

News 07/02/07 5:30pm :30

Ben Antonelli, 58 year old, Greenfield man, was savagely set on fire by six teenagers while he slept. Officer Marcus Paulin says the department is investigating the report. The Greenfield man is now too afraid to go back.

News 07/03/07 5am :30

At least two people died in a shooting yesterday morning in Conway, New Hampshire. Witnesses reported hearing shots around ten in the morning at an army-navy surplus store. Several people were taken into custody, but the attorney general's office says the suspect may still be on the run. A third victim has been hospitalized in Maine in a special care unit.

News 07/03/07 6am :30

Adam Gault is scheduled for a court appearance this morning in Hartford, Connecticut. He was arrested in early June along with two women. All three are charged with conspiracy to commit risk of injury to a minor, conspiracy to commit unlawful restraint, and interfering with police. Police found a 15 year old girl who had run away from home, hidden in his closet.

News **07/03/07** **6am** **:30**

Someone smashed a memorial for the victim of a deadly car crash in Greenfield. Jayson Unaitis was killed in 2004; he was just 20 years old. His grandmother wanted to keep his memory alive and decided to put up a bench memorializing him atop Rocky Mountain which looked out over his childhood home. But Memorial Day weekend, Vallaley Stoddard found the bench smashed to piece and thrown down the cliff.

News **07/03/07** **6am** **:30**

A police officer had to defend himself after a man tried to get into the officer's police cruiser. This all happened just after 6:00 on Church and Main Streets. The officer says a man tried to pull the officer out of his cruiser, when the fight began. The alleged assailant was taken to the hospital for evaluation; the officer had a minor cut to his face.

News **07/04/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Security cameras captured a man casually walking from car to car, slashing tires at a dealership in Hartford. The owner says he doesn't know the man and isn't sure why his car lot was targeted. Several tires were also slashed at a neighboring car repair shop.

News **07/05/07** **5am** **:30**

A 13 year veteran of the Springfield Police Department is fired in connection with a brawl at a city pub. A police spokeswoman says Anthony Bedinelli was discharged Tuesday for his role in a fight with customers of the bar the day after Christmas. Bedinelli was off duty at the time. Two Springfield women say Bedinelli attacked them during a dispute that erupted between the women and a female bartender. Photos of the women taken after the incident showed them with split lips and bruised faces.

News **07/05/07** **5am** **:30**

A man accused of inflicting horrific bite wounds on the face of his girlfriend's three year old daughter is expected to be arraigned in a New Bedford court today. 34 year old Bryan James put up a brief struggle yesterday after police stopped his vehicle to arrest him and the child's mother, 26 year old Jessica Silveira.

News **07/05/07** **5am** **:30**

Consumers in danger of losing their homes face a new scam. Scammers are trying something called "equity stripping" to steal people's homes right from under them. They scour foreclosure notices from courts and then contact people and offer to get a third party to buy their homes. When the homes are bought, the original homeowner finds they're still facing losing their house, with little or nothing to show for it. Seven states are now considering laws against this type of mortgage scam.

News **07/05/07** **5pm** **:30**

The man accused of killing three men during a store robbery in New Hampshire told reporters today that he killed the men because they botched a robbery. He is charged with three counts of first-degree murder in Monday's shootings of a store manager and two customers in Conway. When asked, "Did you do it?", Woodbury responded, "Unfortunately, I did." He later said he needed the money. He also said presumably meaning the victims, botched a robbery.

News **07/06/07** **5am** **:30**

A Holyoke police officer is hospitalized after being attacked with a sledge hammer shortly after 10:00 last night. He lost control of his car, injuring someone inside a Hampden Street apartment. Holyoke Police have arrested Alfredo Rivera who they believe hit the officer with a two pound sledge hammer. He is being charged with attempted murder and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Authorities now believe Guzman crashed the car after someone hit him in the head with a hammer, while he sat in the driver's seat of his cruiser. A man in the apartment suffered minor injuries when Guzman's cruiser crashed through the wall. In addition to the 2 pound sledge hammer detectives located in the officer's crashed cruiser, Lt. McCoy says the suspect, Alfredo Rivera, was holding a large machete when he was arrested at gunpoint. Officer Guzman is being treated for serious facial injuries. He is not listed in fair condition at Baystate.

News **07/06/07** **5am** **:30**

No bail for a New Bedford man accused of biting a three year old girl, disfiguring her face. Bryan James pleaded not guilty in the alleged attack on his girlfriend's daughter. James is accused of assault and battery on a child causing substantial bodily injuries. Investigators say he bit the girl's lip and other parts of her face and body. The girl lost part of her lip and her ear is also severely mutilated. The child's mother is charged with allowing the abuse to happen. She was also ordered held without bail.

News **07/09/07** **5am** **:30**

A girl from Springfield missing since Tuesday has been found in North Carolina. Police are investigating a possible internet relationship between the girl and a married man. Police believe the man may have lured the girl to his home over the internet. The man is being held on charges in North Carolina. The girl's family is said to be headed south to pick her up. The police are not releasing either of their names.

News**07/09/07****6am****:30**

Still no improvement in the condition of a police officer struck in the face with a sledgehammer. Officer Wilfredo Guzman remains in serious condition after allegedly being attacked with a sledgehammer on Thursday by a 36 year old Alfredo Rivera. Rivera didn't appear for his arraignment Friday morning because he was being evaluated at a mental facility. The 56 year old officer was repeatedly struck in the face with a hammer as he sat in his cruiser. Officer Guzman hit the gas in an attempt to get away but crashed into an apartment building on Hampden Street. He underwent several surgeries at Baystate Medical Center.

News**07/09/07****12pm****:30**

Two people are dead after a triple shooting in the central Massachusetts town of Dudley. Dudley police say the shooting occurred shortly before 1 AM on West Main Street, also known as route 12, in a three story building. Authorities have not identified the victims yet, but the Associated Press is reporting that one man and one woman died. A second woman was hospitalized. The Dudley Police Chief said investigators do not believe the shootings were random, but they are still trying to determine the relationship between the victims.

News**07/09/07****12pm****:30**

On Sunday night, Holyoke police arrested 26 year old Carlos Rivera for allegedly beating a woman. He is being charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and various other charges. This is Rivera's 11th arraignment.

News**07/10/07****5am****:30**

Four teenagers are being charged in Juvenile Court with setting a fire in an abandoned Greenfield warehouse. State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan says the 14 and 15 year olds torched the building Sunday. Two firefighters were injured battling the blaze. Nothing exploded in the Old Bendix Tool Building on Laurel Street.

News**07/10/07****5am****:30**

Early Sunday morning Holyoke police arrested 26 year old Carlos Rivera, after they heard a woman screaming for help after allegedly being attacked. According to the Chief, this is Rivera's 11th arraignment, and he has eight open criminal cases pending against him, causing the Chief to again say courts let people out on bail too easily: "This individual should be held. He's a menace to society, and he should be held without bail." In fact, this time the

courts agreed with the Chief. As of yesterday afternoon, Rivera, 26, is being held in jail without the right to bail.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

In East Longmeadow, an alleged rape over the 4th of July holiday has led to an arrest. 35 year old Greg Peguero, of 2309 Main Street, faces several charges including aggravated rape while armed with a firearm, assault and battery, and armed robbery. Peguero was held on \$50,000 bail pending his arraignment yesterday.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

A Springfield couple ended up behind bars after they allegedly got a big delivery of drugs via air mail. The State Police say 47 year old James Robinson and 38 year old Vershon Rouse were arrested for trafficking 136 pounds of marijuana. They were arraigned yesterday in Springfield District Court. An alert Federal Express truck driver told police about the delivery after smelling the drugs. The drugs are worth about \$250,000. Robinson and Rouse plead not guilty. Robinson is being held on \$250,000 bond. Rouse posted a thousand dollar cash bail.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

A Connecticut man has been arrested after a fatal boating accident on the Connecticut River. 44 year old Gregory Siege was charged with 1st degree reckless operation of a vessel while intoxicated. State environmental officials say a 53 year old woman was killed when the speed boat Siege was allegedly operating crashed into the sailboat she was on in Old Saybrook. Three other people were injured. Siege was released on a promise to appear back in court later this month.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

State police are investigating an incident in which a woman reported that she was sexually assaulted after being pulled over by a man impersonating a police officer. The woman was driving on Route 24 in Randolph Sunday. She says an unmarked car came up behind her with a police-style blue light. The alleged victim says she was ordered out of the car and then attacked. The suspect has been described as an older white man with a heavy build, gray hair and a goatee.

News **07/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

A police officer working undercover in West Springfield is on paid leave after shooting a robbery suspect. The female officer was escorting a woman to recover her stolen cell phone, which was apparently being held ransom. West Springfield Police Sergeant Jeff Harlow says, the two met the suspects at the EZ-Mart parking lot on Morgan Road. After the phone was recovered, Sergeant Harlow says one of the suspects began hitting the victim's car with a metal pipe. The undercover officer got out of the car and identified herself, but the suspect allegedly fled. After a brief chase, the suspect turned around to face the officer with the pipe. The officer felt threatened, fired a shot, and hit the suspect's leg. 20 year old Enrique Tyson was taken to Baystate with non-life threatening injuries. He faces numerous charges related to the incident. Two other suspects were also arrested.

News **07/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

Southwick Police Department says, police responded to 159 Klaus Anderson Road around 8:00 where one person was treated for a gunshot wound and transported to a local hospital. The condition of the victim is still unknown and police are not releasing any other information related to the incident.

News **07/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

The suspect in a triple shooting in Dudley has been arrested and will be arraigned later today. 26 year old Christin Muller, of Webster, has been charged with two counts of murder, one count of armed assault, and one count of attempt to commit murder. Three people, a man and two women were shot in the head. The man in his 30's and one of the women in her 20's died. The other woman was taken to UMass Medical Center in Worcester with life-threatening wounds.

News **07/11/07** **5am** **:30**

At Chicopee State pool on Meadow Street Tuesday, at 4:30 is when a 13 year old girl and another teen at the pool started fighting. Chicopee Police broke up that disturbance, but trouble between the girls flared up at the pool a second time and a third time in the parking lot after police made the decision to close the pool. The situation then spiraled even further downward after an officer says he was forced to use pepper spray. The entire family was arrested after a Meleé breaks out in the parking lot of the Chicopee State pool. Two officers were injured, one man's leg was run over, and at least a dozen teens and small children were hit with pepper spray. Lt. Charette says the department believes the Chicopee pool riot was gang related; saying gang signs and language was being used during the incident. Charette adds that several suspects were able to escape in the confusion, but that more charges are pending.

News **07/11/07** **6am** **:30**

The Maine man who admitted to fatally shooting three people last week during a store robbery in Conway, New Hampshire, says he plans to plead guilty and serve his sentence.

News **07/11/07** **6am** **:30**

A Warren man is charged with allowing a teenage girl to drink at his home shortly before she died in a car crash. Mark Holly had been charged under the state's social host law because authorities alleged he knew there were underage drinkers at a party in his home. He faces a year in jail if convicted.

News **07/11/07** **6pm** **:30**

Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott is once again blaming the judicial system for releasing two alleged drug dealers who have a slew of charges pending. Today Holyoke police arrested 29 year old Pablo Ramos and 26 year old David Gomez on drug related charges. Chief Scott says Gomez has been arraigned seven times and has two open cases in Superior Court for drug trafficking. Ramos has faced a judge 19 times and was out on a \$10,000 bail from an arrest in May.

News **07/12/07** **5am** **:30**

In Hampden County Superior Court, Fotis "Freddy" Geas and Brandon Croteau accused of murdering a local mob boss plea not guilty. Geas and Croteau both face trial after being indicted in connection with the 2003 murder of Al Bruno. Geas' lawyer argued in court that her client should be released on bail because the state's case is questionable and rests solely on the testimony of one person. Prosecutors say Geas helped plan and finance the killing and Croteau helped alleged triggerman Frankie Roche leave the state after the shooting. The judge ordered Geas continue to be held without bail. Croteau was returned to Norfolk State prison where he is serving a 15 year sentence on a drug conviction.

News **07/12/07** **5pm** **:30**

Vladislav Merkulov a 17 year old, Westfield teenager was involved in fatal head-on crash in Holyoke last week. Merkulov was originally cited for a marked lanes violation, after his car crossed the center line and hit a motorcycle on Route 202 on July 2nd. But now he faces additional charges. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says Merkulov is being charged with vehicular homicide and operating to endanger. The motorcycle operator, 60 year old Richard Fanska of Westfield was killed in that crash. The investigation has been turned over to the Hampden County DA's office.

News **07/13/07** **5am** **:30**

Around 2:30 this morning at Stearn Square, three people are under arrest another stabbed and in the hospital after a fight in Springfield. The victim is expected to survive. It is unclear what started the fight.

News **07/13/07** **5am** **:30**

In Connecticut, a man has been arrested after hitting a television reporter outside the Rockville Courthouse after his son's bail was revoked. David Shefelbine was charged with breach of peace for knocking down WTNH reporter Erin Cox. He was released on \$500,000 bond and returns to court on July 24th. Shefelbine's son Scott is an alleged internet sex predator. A judge yesterday afternoon ordered a 32 year old Scott Shefelbine of Tolland to jail for violating the terms of his release. Cox was trying to ask him about this when she was hit.

News **07/13/07** **6am** **:30**

On May 16th two men charged with taking part in a beating, which sent 20 year old UMass Hockey player, Kevin Maresco to the hospital with a broken neck bone, broken cheek and eye socket bones, and a severe cut on the head. Michael Vaz of Springfield and Justin Etter of Brocktown each plead not guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon at their arraignment in Hampshire County Superior Court this week. Both remain free on bail

News **07/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

Police in Holyoke are looking into reports of a man impersonating a police officer who pulled over a woman and her grandchild. The woman says it happened around the intersection of Cabot and Linden Streets in downtown Holyoke. The impersonator was in a tan or brown SUV, possibly with a blue light. Sgt. Albert says the man allegedly identified himself as a state police officer and asked the victim where she was headed and what was in her car. When the man failed to produce a badge, the victim rolled up her window and drove to the police station.

News **07/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

A Springfield man is recovering tonight at Baystate Medical Center after being stabbed in the stomach. These three men were arrested in connection with the stabbing at Stearns Square and Worthington Street around 2:30 this morning.

News **07/16/07** **5am** **:30**

A home invasion in Springfield's Mason Square District, followed by a car chase through the neighborhood, leads to the arrest of two women. The suspects allegedly injured four officers and damaged four police cruisers. The hour long chase began at 291 Tyler Street around 1:00 this morning. The suspects broke into this house and slashed the homeowner across the face with a beer bottle. The chase ended minutes later in the Alden Baptist Church parking lot on State and Stebbins Street. That's where police arrested 21 year old Juana

Rosario of Hatfield and 17 year old Melanie Carrasquilla of Belmont Avenue in Springfield. The charges include home invasion, mayhem assaulting a police officer, and possession of crack cocaine. Police also arrested a teenage boy, 17 year old Carlos Cuba of Springfield. Police Lt. John Lynch tells us that from the time the alleged home invasion until officers arrested the trio, the fugitive Chevy Trailblazer rammed no fewer than four police cruisers. The most seriously injured of the pursuing officers suffered broken bones in one of his hands.

News **07/16/07** **6am** **:30**

The city of Springfield will increase police presence on the streets to combat escalating crime. Extra police will be deployed to nine different areas of the city. Police Commissioner Edward Flynn says the initiative will last through Labor Day weekend. Added police presence will be visible in Mason Square, the Liberty Heights section, the South End and the North End.

News **07/16/07** **6am** **:30**

In Connecticut, the case of a triple killing in Windsor Locks returns to a state courtroom today. Benedetto Cipriani is set to be arraigned on murder and conspiracy charges in Enfield Superior Court. He was extradited from Italy to Connecticut on Friday. Police say the killings at B and B Automotive in 2003 were connected to an affair Cipriani had with one of the victim's wives.

News **07/16/07** **11pm** **:30**

A Washington DC area man is facing charges here in Massachusetts after allegedly stuffing his daughters into the trunk of his car Sunday. Michael Fekete was arraigned today in Wrentham District Court on child endangerment charges. Witnesses reported seeing Fekete stuff his nine and eleven year old daughters into the trunk outside a Foxborough nursing home. Officials say the girls were in there as long as five minutes, but Fekete's attorney says that is an exaggeration. Temperatures reached 90 degrees Sunday. The girls were taken into protective custody after their father was arrested. The girls will be released into their mother's custody. Fekete's attorney argued the girls were never in any danger, and the trunk had a release inside.

News **07/17/07** **5am** **:30**

Three men were shot and killed four years ago at an auto body shop in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. 51 year old Benedetto Cipriani fled just days after the murders. Under terms of his extradition, authorities agreed not to seek the death penalty. Prosecutors say Cipriani was having an affair with the wife of one of the victims. Prosecutors say he hired hit men to do the

job. Cipriani is held on more than \$7 million bail, charged with three counts of murder and another count of conspiracy to commit murder.

News **07/17/07** **12pm** **:30**

Former Springfield police officer Chester Ardolino and one-time pub owner Matthew Campagnari will be sentenced in federal court for their roles in a federal corruption case. The defendants were accused of skimming money from downtown bars. Both pleaded not guilty in April to conspiracy, tax fraud, and other charges.

News **07/17/07** **12pm** **:30**

Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says over two and a half pounds of marijuana and a semi-automatic pistol was confiscated from 583 Pleasant St. last night. 36 year old Jorge Rodriguez is charged with drug possession and possession of a firearm. Rodriguez has been arraigned a total of 33 times.

News **07/17/07** **12pm** **:30**

On Myspace page, 34 year old Douglas Weed, using the name "Creepy Old Man" is now charged with sexual assault on a 14 year old girl. Weed is accused of assaulting a young girl at a party on July 2nd in Pittsfield. Weed was arraigned yesterday in court on two counts of statutory rape and pleaded not guilty. He's being held on \$25,000 bond.

News **07/17/07** **5pm** **:30**

The costs of the incident in Mason Square District of Springfield, this past weekend have taxpayers cringing. Four police officers were injured and four cruisers seriously damaged during the arrest of three home invasion suspects in the parking lot of the Alden Baptist Church on Stebbins Street. The cost will likely run into the tens of thousands of dollars. The three young people who allegedly rammed the four cruisers and injured the four officers face assault and mayhem charges.

News **07/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

Federal Judge Micheal Ponsor sentenced a former Springfield police officer Chester Ardolino to a year and a day in jail and pays a \$10,000 fine. His former partner will serve even more time for skimming about \$700,000 from two downtown bars. Judge Ponsor imposed the low end of the sentencing guidelines after Ardolino pleaded guilty last March to four counts of filing false personal income tax returns and one count of conspiracy. The charges relate to Ardolino's co-ownership of the Civic Pub and the Pour House. The government says the owners paid employees under the table, without paying social security or Medicare. Former Ardolino business partner and co-defendant Matthew Campagnari will serve 18 months, for skimming about \$700,000 from two downtown bars and pay a \$20,000 fine. Both men read statements in open court, expressing remorse for their crimes. His younger brother, Anthony

Ardolino, a one-time chief of staff to former Springfield mayor Michael Albano, has pleaded guilty to the same charges and is scheduled to go before Judge Ponsor for sentencing Wednesday afternoon.

News **07/18/07** **12pm** **:30**

Fritz Simeon Jr. a 50 year old Pittsfield man is charged with sexually assaulting a child under the age of 14 and assault with the intent to rape a child under the age of 16. In Central Berkshire District Court yesterday, Simeon pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors say Simeon was arrested on Monday night after a group of men assaulted him inside his home over the incident. Authorities say Simeon assaulted the girl on July 12th when she asked him to repair her bicycle.

News **07/18/07** **12pm** **:30**

34 year old, Jason Strickland, accused in connection with the beating of his stepdaughter is still waiting to hear whether the charges against him will be dropped. Strickland's lawyer filed a motion to have the charges dropped, saying there wasn't enough evidence against him. The judge in the case still hasn't made a decision on the motion. Strickland was charged after his 11 year old stepdaughter, Haleigh Poutre, was found beaten into a coma. She's now in a hospital in Boston. During a pretrial hearing in Superior Court, the judge focused on resolving some of the issues surrounding the case. Another hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday. A tentative trial date is set for September 4th.

News **07/18/07** **11pm** **:30**

State and local police are investigating what could be a double murder in the Franklin County community of Greenfield. Residents in the city of Greenfield are still reeling from the news that two bodies were found in a home on Washington Street today. And, with no suspect in custody, people are not only shocked, they're scared. 11AM Wednesday, police discovered the bodies of a male and female inside the home at 69 Washington Street in Greenfield. And according to Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel, one of the only things that's certain in this case is that it appears the two died under suspicious circumstances.

News **07/18/07** **11pm** **:30**

Police arrested 21 year old, David Light a junior at Yale University, after seizing a 50 caliber rifle, and AR15 assault rifle, a Russian infantry rifle, a 12 gauge shotgun, and a number of pistols. They also confiscated various chemicals from the off-campus home. Light's been charged with illegal possession of assault rifles, unlawful discharge of a firearm, reckless endangerment, and making threats. The university has suspended him pending a disciplinary committee review of the case.

News **07/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

Kathleen Bourgeois, a Lenox woman, has pleaded guilty to motor vehicle homicide and other charges. According to police, Bourgeois was speeding on April 7th of last year when she crashed her SUV into another vehicle, killing 78 year old Kathleen Smith of Pittsfield. Bourgeois was released on personal recognizance following her arraignment yesterday in Central Berkshire County District Court. She was ordered not to drive at least until her August 8th sentencing.

News **07/19/07** **6pm** **:30**

NFL superstar Michael Vick was indicted on federal charges for running a major dog fighting ring. The dogs that were considered wear or inferior, allegedly tortured or killed. Dog fighting involves gambling which leads to big business not only nationwide, but right here in western Massachusetts. Springfield's MSPCA law enforcement officer, Christine Allenberg says authorities know it's happening here often because of the number of pitbulls coming into shelters with bad temperaments and fighting wounds or scars. Dog fighting is a felony in Massachusetts, punishable by up to five years in prison. New bills at the statehouse propose increasing the penalties for spectators as well.

News **07/19/07** **6pm** **:30**

Several vehicles are damaged after large chunks of cement were thrown from an overpass in eastern Massachusetts. The incidents happened from a Route 495 overpass in Lowell last night. Four cars traveling under the underpass were damaged. One man was treated for cuts after his car's windshield was shattered. There were no other injuries reported. Police say the culprits tossed the large chunks of cement from the Bolyston Street overpass on the northbound side of the highway.

News **07/19/07** **11pm** **:30**

44 year old Robin Hoose, a Greenfield man is facing two counts of murder and will arraign tomorrow in Greenfield District Court. Police charged him in the deaths of a man and a woman found in a Greenfield apartment Wednesday morning. The bodies of 45 year old Irene Pierce of Turners Falls and 33 year old Frank Blanchard of Springfield were found in an apartment at 69 Washington Street. The Northwestern District Attorney's office says both victims had suffered stab-like injuries and that Blanchard also suffered what appears to be blunt force trauma to his body.

News **07/20/07** **5am** **:30**

Jermaine Douchette Jr. is sentenced in a different case to three to four years in prison for seriously injuring another man in an unrelated fight. Douchette pleaded guilty yesterday to assault and battery causing serious bodily injury and unarmed robbery for the December 2005 incident. The judge says the victim in the case was beaten so badly he is lucky to be alive.

News **07/20/07** **12pm** **:30**

Richard Osborne and Shaun Menzie have been arrested during a prostitution sting set up in Massachusetts. Six men were taken into custody when they showed up at a would-be brothel run by Massachusetts Police. 54 year old Osborne is the play-by-play announcer for UNH hockey. 43 year old Menzie is the executive director of the Boys Club in Haverill. The two are charged, along with other men, with soliciting sex online for prostitution. They face up to one year in jail if convicted.

News **07/20/07** **12pm** **:30**

Michael Garvie Jr. of Colchester, Connecticut, a former athletic director and varsity baseball coach at a catholic high school in Montville, is arrested on child sex charges. According to police, Garvie was involved in sexually explicit online conversations with someone he believed was a 15 year old girl. He resigned from his job at the school the day before the arrest.

News **07/20/07** **5pm** **:30**

Robin Anthony Hoose, a Greenfield man, has been ordered held without bail following his arraignment today on two counts of murder. Hoose pleaded not guilty to the killing of 45 year old Irene Pierce of Turners Falls and 33 year old Frank Blanchard of Springfield. The DA's office says the female victim bled to death after being stabbed more than 15 times. The male victim suffered blunt and sharp-force injuries. Before the bodies were found, a relative asked police to check up Hoose. They found he'd checked himself into a hospital where he spoke to an officer. Elizabeth Scheibel, Northwestern District Attorney, stated, "The defendant made certain admissions. On the basis of those admissions, Greenfield police officers and Montague officers went to 69 Washington St. in Greenfield to check on the wellbeing of two people in the apartment. When they arrived, there they found two bodies." William Mazanec says, "My client entered a not guilty plea today to both charges and the matter is still being investigated, and we're conducting our own investigation, and Mr. Hoose plans a vigorous defense on these charges." Hoose has a long history of crime and violent crime, which was cited in court in the prosecution's request he be held without bail. His next court date is September 20th.

News **07/21/07** **11pm** **:30**

State police ended a foot chase through downtown Springfield in front of a crowd. The chase started as state troopers were told to look out for a white Mustang believed to be involved in a hold up at CompUSA in Holyoke. State trooper Lanpher spotted the Mustang; and as they attempted to pull the car over, this suspect was laying on the ground began to run. As

troopers followed, tracking him down, the owner of Springfield's Pazzo restaurant watched the scene. Paul Astuto says, "The officer was chasing someone across the highway, and the guy jumped over the wall and the officer told him to stay down." Apparently the alleged suspect hurt himself as he jumped over the Interstate 91 barrier. He was taken away by ambulance to be treated for his injuries.

News **07/22/07** **11pm** **:30**

Two thieves use a growling pit bull as their weapon of choice while allegedly robbing a Springfield woman early this morning on Central Street. The woman told, Police Lt. Robert Moynihan, two young men threatened her with the pit bull while stealing her purse and cell phone. The teenage suspects were charged with larceny and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, the pit bull.

News **07/23/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield detectives are investigating a late afternoon home invasion in Springfield in which a husband and wife were tied up and robbed at gunpoint. Police Captain Joseph Paralac says it happened on Clantoy Street in Liberty Heights at 3:00 this afternoon. One of the two male suspects was armed with a semi-automatic pistol. An unknown quantity of jewelry was taken. No one was hurt. The robbers were last seen leaving in a Chevy Blazer.

News **07/23/07** **11pm** **:30**

Hampshire County Superior Court judge sentenced Eugene Rentas to 39 to 45 years behind bars, for home invasion and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. In July of last year, Eugene Rentas Jr. broke into a home at Meadowbrook apartments in Northampton and shot Ricky Diaz. Diaz spent more than a month in the hospital. His two children, ages six and eight, were in the room when he was shot.

News **07/24/07** **5am** **:30**

In Connecticut, two suspects are due in a Meriden courtroom today after a deadly home invasion in Cheshire. The wife and two daughters of a prominent Connecticut doctor were found dead in their burning home yesterday. Doctor William Petit Jr., President of the Hartford County Medical Association survived the attack but was severely injured.

News **07/24/07** **6am** **:30**

The owner of a Sunderland trout hatchery faces up to three years in federal prison when he's sentenced today for killing a bald eagle and other birds that were feeding at his fish pools.

Federal investigators say they found more than 250 bird carcasses on Michael Zak's hatchery property. Tests show the birds were killed by gunshots.

News **07/24/07** **5pm** **:30**

Joshua Komisarjevsky and Steven Hayes are facing a triple homicide in Cheshire, Connecticut and are held on \$15 million bail. Komisarjevsky and Hayes were arraigned this morning in Meriden Superior Court. They are charged with first degree sexual assault, arson, kidnapping, and robbery. Officials say that three people, a mother and her two daughters died in a home invasion yesterday. They were found dead in their burning home. The father, Dr. William Petit Jr., survived the attack.

News **07/24/07** **6pm** **:30**

On Friday night, July 20th, a man was shot in the shoulder outside the Holyoke Hispanic Festival. The victim saw who shot him but refused to tell police what he knew. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says this lack of cooperation between cops and victims creates a major problem in solving crimes. He adds, "He wants to take revenge himself so he's not going to help us catch the individual who shot him." Angelique Badalati was there the night of the shooting. She knows the guy who was shot. She says he believe in the code of silence, not to rat out any of his "boys." Instead, he'll find his own way to get even. And those convicted criminals are served with light sentences and low bails, putting them back on the streets in no time. This perpetuates the gang mentality. Victims' fear of retaliation and pride in following the code of silence prolongs police investigations, using up staffing hours and tax payers' dollars.

News **07/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield tactical response teams were called into defuse a tense situation on Chestnut Street. The unnamed stabbing victim in this case had to undergo surgery and is now listed in critical but stable condition. Meanwhile, the man who allegedly assaulted him is in jail on assault and battery charges among other charges. It took police seven hours to end a standoff with a knife-wielding career criminal named Victor Velasquez. The 44 year old barricaded himself inside the third floor bedroom at 568 Chestnut Street after allegedly stabbing a neighbor he knew for money. Police Commissioner Ed Flynn says, "Velasquez is a level 3 sex offender, he has numerous prior criminal offenses, totaling 61 total criminal arraignments in a criminal career that goes back to 1980." In the end, police flushed Velazquez out onto the roof with pepper spray. One officer was bitten in the hand during the apprehension, but other than that incident, the standoff ended without bloodshed.

News **07/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

Hadley police are looking into two break-ins at two businesses along the Route 9 corridor. A small amount of cash was taken in the first break-in discovered at Sully's restaurant on Russell Street about 5:30 Monday morning. About two hours later, someone broke into a store at the Norwattuck Shops further down the street. In both breaks, the thieves gained entry through a window.

News **07/25/07** **12pm** **:30**

Police are now indicating more charges will likely be filed against the two suspects in the Cheshire home invasion and triple homicide. The two suspects, 26 year old Joshua Komisarjevsky of Cheshire and 44 year old Steven Hayes of Winsted, are being identified as career criminals and were arraigned on charges of assault, sexual assault, kidnapping, burglary, robbery, arson, larceny, and risk of injury to children. Bail was set at \$15 million each. The medical examiner has confirmed the deaths of the Cheshire woman and her two daughters during the home invasion are homicides. The father and husband of the three victims, Dr. William Petit Jr., survived the attack but is hospitalized with head injuries.

News **07/25/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield police used pepper spray to subdue 44 year old Victor Velasquez Tuesday afternoon. He barricaded himself in a third floor bedroom at 568 Chestnut Street. Police say he ran into the house after stabbing a man in a robbery attempt. Velasquez is a level three sex offender who originally told police he wouldn't be taken alive. The judge ordered him held without bail on a parole violation. Velasquez pleaded not guilty to numerous charges including armed robbery and armed assault with intent to murder. He returns to court on August 24th.

News **07/26/07** **5am** **:30**

A man from Springfield is recovering after being shot in the leg this morning. It happened just after one o'clock at 87 Quincy Street. Police Lieutenant John Slepchuck says the victim went to the hospital on his own. He adds that illegal drugs were found inside the home where the shooting occurred. Police have not yet made an arrest.

News **07/26/07** **6am** **:30**

A smashed window at Hadley Veterinary Hospital on Russell Street has raised suspicions that the incident might be connected with two burglaries within walking distance along Route 9. The Russell Street area has been among the most crime free zones here in western Massachusetts until Tuesday, when the popular Sully's Restaurant was burglarized. Thieves also hit a store in the Norwottuck shopping mall just down the road. Then, yesterday morning

a ladder was reportedly used to smash a window at the veterinary hospital. However, nothing was taken.

News **07/27/07** **5am** **:30**

A Northampton man is facing charges in a hit-and-run accident that claimed the life of a person riding their bike in Norton last week. 39 year old Timothy Corbin is accused of manslaughter, larceny of a motor vehicle, and malicious destruction of property. Corbin also faces his sixth drunken driving offense. Corbin is currently being held on \$100,000 bail and will be arraigned next Tuesday in Attleboro District Court.

News **07/27/07** **6am** **:30**

A former Enfield, Connecticut firefighter was caught in a police sting during an episode of Dateline NBC's "To Catch a Predator" that aired Wednesday night. Rick Burnham is one of the men facing charges in Ocean City, New Jersey where that sting was set up in April. The men allegedly went there to meet up with teens that they had chatted with online about sex.

News **07/27/07** **6am** **:30**

The prosecutor in New Haven, Connecticut says he'll seek the death penalty against two men accused of killing a doctor's wife and their two daughters Monday. Steven Hayes and Joshua Komisarjevsky are charged with sex counts of each capital felony in the case. The two convicted burglars are accused of strangling Jennifer Hawke-Petit and leaving her 17 and 11 year old daughters to die while the house burned. They died of smoke inhalation. Dr. William Petit. Jr. the girls' father, was badly beaten but escaped.

News **07/27/07** **12pm** **:30**

A Hartford judge has cleared the way of 39 year old, Brian Pagnam, accused of killing his father; 85 year old, Robert Pagnam of Enfield, last December. The judge has found probable cause to try 39 year old Brian Pagnam on murder charges. The ruling came after the judge heard yesterday a 911 recording of the son allegedly saying his father was murdered, and he was the one who did it. Pagnam claims to have worked for the FBI, the Duchesse of York, and the Queen Elizabeth. He allegedly told attorneys that his father was one of the September 11th terrorists.

News **07/30/07** **5am** **:30**

According to Captain Joseph Parylak, a large crowd at Main and Jefferson Streets started to get rowdy and began setting the stage for illegal drag racing at the Puerto Rican Parade in Springfield,. A number of cruisers were called to the area to disperse the crowd. People in the crowd were throwing eggs, and one police officer was hit in the face. 14 people were arrested during the incident. They now face several charges including disorderly conduct and assault.

News **07/30/07** **5pm** **:30**

Police are investigating an armed home invasion that lead to a brutal beating in Orange. Sergeant John Bartus of the Orange Police Department confirms the home invasion happened early this morning. At least one person was injured. According to a witness, two masked men broke into a home at 82 Mechanic Street and demanded cash before allegedly beating his 20 year old friend. According to the witness, the masked men got away with a leather coat and stereo system. One of the occupants of the home was treated for injuries after he was reportedly struck with a billy club. There have been no arrests yet.

News **07/30/07** **5pm** **:30**

Two children ages 10 and 12 of Roslindale, were found stabbed to death shortly before nine last night. Their 31 year old mother is in the hospital, but her condition is unknown. Police believe the stabbing is a domestic incident and are not searching for any suspects. Friends and neighbors say the mother had been distraught over the recent loss of her job at Children's Hospital.

News **07/30/07** **11pm** **:30**

Orange police have arrested one of two suspects in two violent home invasions that took place last night. The first incident happened a little before midnight at 419 East River Avenue. Two masked men forced their way into the apartment. They were armed with a handgun and some sort of club. While police were investigating that robbery, a very similar crime took place at 82 Mechanic Street, where the occupants were watching television and working on the computer. Matthew Tie, one of the home invasion victims, says, "These two guys came rushing in. One had a revolver, and the other had a billy club. The one with the billy club smashed Mike in the face. The other one pointed the gun at our faces and told us to empty our pockets, the robber took off with our cigarettes and stuff." Matthew Tie hurt his foot while running away. He said he recognized the robbers. Police arrested Shane LeBlank and charges him with armed robbery, home invasion, and robbery while masked and armed. Police say they recovered the items taken in the heist.

News **07/31/07** **12pm** **:30**

A 40 minute standoff between Easthampton police and a man with a knife ends without incident. The Pride Convenience Store on Union Street called police because a man was standing out front waving and yelling at passing cars. Officers tried to approach 50 year old Luis Antonio Rivera, but he allegedly pulled out a large knife and began waving it at police. While trying to negotiate with the man, he cut through the gas pump hose at the store. Police then tased the man and the knife fell to the ground. He's facing a number of charges including disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

News **07/31/07** **11pm** **:30**

At 1:30 this afternoon, someone robbed the North Brookfield bank at 1051 Thorndike Street in Palmer. Chief Robert Frydryk says the man seen here on the bank's surveillance camera walked in, passed a note demanding money from a teller, and walked off with an undisclosed amount of cash. The six foot tall white man was wearing a Patriots shirt, jeans, a hat, and sunglasses at the time. If you recognize the suspect or have any information you are asked to call Palmer police.

News **07/31/07** **11pm** **:30**

Early Tuesday morning, Springfield police arrested 18 year old Luis Martinez. They charged him with three counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle in the nighttime and larceny. They also arrested a juvenile in the same investigation. There is a neighborhood watch here, but residents know they can take positive steps to protect their property.

News **08/01/07** **5am** **:30**

New from the overnight in Springfield, one man is under arrest after allegedly pointing his gun at police officers. A second suspect remains on the loose. Officers were at Dwight Street extension when they heard gunshots. One block away, they saw a suspect with a handgun walking down the street. When they tried to stop him, he allegedly pointed the gun at the officers. The officers then pointed their guns at the suspect. Lieutenant John Slepchuck says the standoff continues for 3 blocks until it all ended on Adams Street.

News **08/01/07** **5am** **:30**

A woman is shaken, but ok after a man allegedly douses her with flammable liquid with a lighter within arms reach. It happened on the porch of a house on Bay Street around one o'clock this morning. The woman was taken to Baystate for observation. The man was arrested.

News **08/01/07** **12pm** **:30**

52 year old, Alfred Lebaire of Palmer faces a judge today after allegedly trying to drown his girlfriend 55 year old, Gail Arsenault yesterday afternoon. Police Chief Robert Frydryk says Lebaire was arrested for domestic assault. Neighbors on Lake Thompson claim they heard the couple arguing, saw a struggle in the water, and noticed the man allegedly holding the woman under water. The woman was found unconscious in the water when police arrived. She was resuscitated and airlifted to UMass Medical Center in Worcester. She is listed in serious condition.

News **08/02/07** **5am** **:30**

Arraignment today for 31 year old, Angela Vasquez of Boston. Vasquez is charged with killing her two children, 10 year old Dennis Vasquez and 13 year old Yasmine Burgos. Vasquez faces two counts of murder. She remains hospitalized with non-life threatening wounds after stabbing herself.

News **08/02/07** **11pm** **:30**

Bail has been denied for the man accused of trying to drown his girlfriend in Lake Thompson Tuesday. 52 year old Alfred Labare is being held without the right to bail while waiting for a detention hearing next Wednesday. Labare is accused of attempting to drown Gail Arsenault Tuesday behind 54 French Drive in Lake Thompson. Arsenault is at UMass Medical Center in Worcester in critical condition.

News **08/02/07** **11pm** **:30**

Still in Palmer where police say burglary was a family affair for a Three Rivers man and his two adult children. Police arrested a father, son, and daughter today for a series of house breaks in at least four local communities. Police from Palmer, Belchertown, and Ludlow executed a search warrant Thursday at 131 North Street in the Three Rivers section of Palmer. Police tied evidence collected from several house breaks to the man who lives there. Palmer Police Chief Robert Frydryk says, "With the assistance of crime scene services of the Mass State police, this evidence was analyzed and identified Thomas Walker as the perpetrator in a house break in Belchertown, one in Ludlow, one in Palmer, and one in South Hadley." Police have charged 50 year old Mark Walker and his son, 19 year old Thomas Walker, with receiving stolen property and possession of marijuana and heroin. Walker's daughter, 21 year old Ashlee Walker faces a charge of possession of heroin. Police say the Walkers targeted victims through the newspaper by reading the obituary columns, figuring when the families would be away at the funeral, and then break in when they were not home. The Walkers face arraignment Friday in Chicopee District Court. Police believe they may tie the family to more burglaries they are investigating. Chief Frydryk says Chicopee District Court is just the first stop. He's hoping a grand jury returns indictments, and the Walkers eventually stand trial on felony charges.

News **08/03/07** **12pm** **:30**

A 28 year old man will spend the rest of his life in prison after being convicted of the murder of a rival gang member in North Adams. James Smith of Brooklyn, New York was sentenced this morning to mandatory life in prison without the possibility of parole. A Berkshire Superior Court jury yesterday convicted Smith in the July 2006 shooting death of 31 year old Kijona Osmond in a North Adams apartment. Prosecutors said Smith was a member of the "Crips" Street gang, Osmond a member of the Bloods gang. Smith also received a 20 to 25 year sentence for armed home invasion.

News **08/06/07** **5am** **:30**

Police in Springfield are investigating the city's 12th homicide of the year. Police say 27 year old Steve Mascaro was found shot several times in the stomach with a shotgun on the porch of his apartment at about 5AM yesterday. Mascaro was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

News **08/06/07** **5pm** **:30**

In the eastern part of the state, a homeless man accused of killing his six year old cousin has pleaded not guilty to murder charges and will undergo a psychiatric evaluation. Ryan Bois spit at reporters and photographers as he entered Quincy District Court today for arraignment. Bois is charged with breaking into his grandmother's Weymouth home where his cousin, Joanna Mullin, was spending the night. Police found the young girl's body wedged in the backseat of the SUV Bois was driving after he led officers on a high speed chase.

News **08/06/07** **6pm** **:30**

A drug bust in Springfield's Indian Orchard nets four men. After an ongoing narcotics investigation, police arrested these individuals at 151 Verge Street on Friday. David and Carlos Figueroa of that address and Shawn Farnsworth and Ganieany both of Ludlow now face various drug-related charges. During the raid, police confiscated 515 grams of cocaine, drug packaging materials, a car, and more than \$22,000.

News **08/06/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield police say they had to subdue a suspect that scratched and spit on them. It happened downtown around 5 tonight at Main and Union Streets. Springfield Police Lt. Cheryl Claprood says the man was half-naked and challenging police to shoot him. Claprood says one of the police officers was relieved of duty because of injuries he sustained during the scuffle. The man was not arrested, but he was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he is now in critical condition, possibly from a drug overdose. Lt. Claprood says, if he survives, the 30 year old Springfield man will face six counts of assault and battery on a police officer.

News **08/07/07** **11pm** **:30**

A 20 year old man was shot in the head while standing by Middlesex Street between Marlborough Street and Wilbraham Road this morning. The victim's friend drove him to the hospital. He's listed in stable condition at Baystate Medical Center. The victim told police he didn't see who may have been involved in the drive-by shooting. Police are looking for a maroon car.

News **08/08/07** **11pm** **:30**

Police in the eastern Franklin County town of Orange are looking for a bank robber. A lone male suspect hit the East Main Street TD Bank North branch just after it opened this morning. He walked in, demanded money from the teller, and took off with some cash. No weapon was shown. He's described as 5 feet, 9 inches tall with dark curly hair.

News **08/09/07** **5am** **:30**

A man accused of accosting and assaulting a young woman in Brimfield has been arraigned. The Massachusetts State Police say 54 year old Robert Bruno assaulted a 20 year old female jogger on Little Alum Road in Brimfield on July 21st. Police are looking into whether there's any connection between this case and the abduction and murder of 16 year old Molly Bish of Warren, in part because of a resemblance between the Bish suspect sketch and Bruno.

News **08/10/07** **5am** **:30**

It's a pretty low crime, even for criminals. Police say thieves are breaking into Franklin County churches. In one case, stealing money intended to feed the hungry. Police say thieves broke one of the Ten Commandments and are looking for a confession or divine intervention. Reverend Raymond Medeiros says they forced their way into the Unites Church of Bernardston last week. He says, "I was at home with my wife getting ready for vacation." That's when the call came that someone stole about \$3,000 worth of items left in his and the secretary's office, including \$300 in cash, a laptop computer, a projector, gift cards for gas and groceries, and stamps. Reverend Medeiros calls the criminals "desperate," saying, "Aside from the initial shock, there's sadness that someone would steal from a church, especially items for people who have genuine needs." Police are also investigating a string of possible related break-ins. Churches in Shelburne and Colrain over the weekend and Churches in Greenfield last Wednesday. Bernardston Police Chief Jason Bunk says each hit is the same scenario.

News **08/14/07** **5am** **:30**

In Palmer, yesterday morning an alleged sexual assault led to a stand off with police. 50 year old Gregory Jackson, of Indiana appeared in court yesterday morning. Jackson pleads not guilty. He's charged with breaking an entering with intent to commit a felony and assault and battery with intent to rape.

News **08/14/07** **5am** **:30**

Two Gardner men thought they were making a friend online. Instead, police say four alleged felons were behind the computer. Bryan Bowers is a prisoner in his East Howe Street home in Orange. Bowers was wearing a police monitoring bracelet, after a court date back in May with three other alleged partners in crime. It was then that the 19 year old, along with Thomas LaFrennie, Amanda LaFrennie, and Lawrence LaFrennie, were charged with luring two Gardner men from their home after meeting on MySpace to allegedly beat and burglarize them. Bowers claims to have an alibi and maintains his innocence in each incident but says he went wrong by admitting in a statement to hatching and carrying out the crimes. Police say the precarious plot was devised over MySpace.com. The four allegedly masking their identity, a innocent teenage local girl "Erica Smith" that creating a relationship with the men under

false pretenses. They reportedly arranged to meet the men separately on different dates. When the men left their homes, the teens made their move. Bowers say he hasn't tales to his alleged co-conspirators since their last district court date. Next Monday, they'll rendezvous again when indictments are handed down in Superior Court.

News **08/14/07** **11pm** **:30**

A man faced several charges in court today stemming from a home invasion in Enfield, Connecticut. William Marks of Chicopee was charged with an attempt to commit felony murder, robbery, larceny, burglary, and carrying a pistol without a permit. Enfield Police Lieutenant Duane Tompkins tells says that, Marks was attempting to rob a home on 307 Washington Road yesterday when the homeowner arrived and was assaulted. Marks tried to fire the pistol, but it jammed. The victim sustained minor injuries from the assault.

News **08/16/07** **11pm** **:30**

The former operator of 13 now closed local Wendy's has been indicted by a Hampden County grand jury for issuing bad checks and failing to pay his workers. Holly Salemi has been out of work since July 20th, that's the day 13 western Massachusetts Wendy's restaurants including the one she worked at in Westfield were abruptly shut down for financial reasons. On Thursday, Attorney General Martha Coakley's office announced that the owner of the stores Robert Burda of Ohio has been indicted on 10 counts of failing to pay wages. The Attorney General says nearly 100 workers like Holly have filed complaints with her office since the closings. The former shift manager shows the time receipts that prove she worked the hours she claims, but still, Holly holds out little hope she'll ever see the cash. The only people inside this Westfield Wendy's right now is a cleaning crew. Wendy's International had originally agreed to pay Wendy's employees their lost wages; but according to Holly Salemi, that hasn't happened yet.

News **8/20/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield Police release the results of a mid-year crime study tonight. The study compares crime numbers from the first six months of 2006 and the first six months of 2007. Springfield Police Commissioner Edward Flynn says he's "encouraged" by the numbers so far. The study shows the number of gun assaults in Springfield down 36%, aggravated assaults down 21%, and violent crimes down 14%. Areas where Springfield could stand to improve? Murders are up 22% from this last year, robberies are up 2%, and gun robberies have risen by 3%. Some say, more police on the streets is key to fixing those problems.

News **8/20/07** **11pm** **:30**

Three area men face charges after a street confrontation that left two Chicopee Police officers injured. Chicopee detective Sgt. Jeffrey Nadeau tells that a police officer in an unmarked police cruiser saw a teenager drinking from an open container of beer on Chicopee St. last night. When the detective questioned the teen, two men allegedly assaulted the detective. The two other officers called in for back up. Police arrested a 21 year old and a 17 year old man. Two suspects face charges of assault and battery on a police officer. One officer suffered a gash on his head.

News **8/20/07** **11pm** **:30**

No bail for a Connecticut man who allegedly tried to use his pick-up truck as a weapon in Palmer. The incident stemmed from a birthday this weekend in Palmer. 39 year old James French pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault and battery with intent to murder. Palmer police officer John Melnick says French tried to run a man over, but the victim escaped serious injury. French is being held without the right to bail until his next hearing September 20th.

News **8/20/07** **11pm** **:30**

Franklin County crime-beat reporter George Claxton found himself in the middle of an alleged crime. According to Greenfield Police and staff of the Recorder Newspaper, 34 year Bernard Monkiewicz, Junior, stormed into the Recorder's Hope Street offices in Greenfield around nine this morning. He was apparently looking to speak with Claxton about not printing his name in an article. Greenfield Police tells, the argument came to blows. Reporter George Claxton's knee was injured and his eye glasses smashed. Incidentally, Monkiewicz appeared before a judge for vandalizing property charges today. And now, he will be summoned to court for this morning's alleged assault.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Two men charged with burning down an abandoned paper mill in Erving are held without the right to bail. 28 year old John Rousseau and Michael Dreslinski pleaded not guilty to arson charges in Orange District Court yesterday. Firefighters from 20 communities and three states battled the July 30th fire that destroyed the Usher paper mill. The men will be held their next appearance in court on Thursday.

News **8/21/07** **11pm** **:30**

Some Springfield residents are wondering how the police commissioner came to the conclusion that violent crime decreased in Springfield in the first six months in 2007. Police commissioner Edward Flynn on Monday released mid-year crime figures that say violent crime decreased 14 percent from the first six months of 2006. Mason square residents we spoke with say the city feels more dangerous to them. Commissioner Flynn acknowledges

that murders increased some what, but he says the figures are skewed because four of the homicides are attributed to domestic violence, not street violence.

News **8/21/07** **11pm** **:30**

A man from Huntington will spend 30 to 40 years in prison for raping a young girl and her sister. A Hampshire county superior court judge says there is no evidence that 34-year-old Robert Mineau can be rehabilitated. The judge said the nine-year-old victim and her sister were quote "two of the most credible and thoughtful witnesses I have every seen testify."

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Routine surveillance on a suspected drug dealer nearly cost a Springfield police officer his life. Thursday, Veteran Springfield police officered Kalish found out what it felt like to be hit by a car head on. While staking out a suspected drug dealer in Springfield's north end, Kalish pulled over an alleged drug customer after seizing a bag of heroin, things went south. The man allegedly behind the wheel was 55 year old Thomas Cark of west Springfield...the chase ended, near the mall in Holyoke with another crash...this time Clark hit two other cars and he was taken to Baystate for treatment. At Baystate medical center, both the officer, and the suspect were treated. Doctors at Baystate medical center have already bandaged Officer Kalish up, and sent him home. Commissioner Flynn, says the assault happened near the corner of Springfield and armory streets. Police pursued the man 91 north into Holyoke. The chase ended when the suspect crashed his car into two other cars near the Holyoke mall. 55-year old Thomas Clark of West Springfield was taken to Baystate medical center with minor injuries. Clark faces a long list of charges including attempted murder, possession of heroin and eluding police.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **: 30**

Developments in the case of a Springfield school principal who claims he was assaulted by police while experiencing a diabetic attack. Details of the Daniel Greer settlement have been released to the public. With the help of the Massachusetts commission against discrimination, the city of Springfield and the police department have been working with Greer to find a way to prevent such an incident from happening again. The solution they've come up with; instead of a monetary settlement, the parties agreed to create a new citizen complaint review board. Formed it will independently analyze investigations of misconduct complaints, and use of force incidents, after the internal investigations unit does its review. Incidentally this agreement also effectively dismisses all legal action being taken against the city and its police officers as it pertains to the Greer case.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

In Greenfield ...two stabbing suspects appeared in court yesterday. Each faces attempted murder charges after allegedly stabbing a man from Orange. 25-year-old Gary baker and his alleged accomplice 29-year old Laurie Duteau were ordered held on 15-thousand dollars cash and 150-thousand dollars surety related to the august 16th incident. Police say baker

and Duteau broke into Craig Ames' orange apartment and stabbed him twice in the abdomen. Each turned themselves into police last friday. The alleged attack was reportedly the result of a domestic dispute between Duteau and Ames.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Chicopee police plan to keep close tabs on registered level 3 sex offenders in their city. Patrol officers will be verifying sex offender home and work addresses. Level 3 offenders are considered most likely to re-offend. A team of Chicopee detectives previously made annual checks on level three sex offenders. Several other western Massachusetts communities also do random level 3 checks.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

80 years ago, two italian immigrants, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed here in Massachusetts. Every year, death penalty opponents use the anniversary of the men's executions to build opposition to the re-instatement of the death penalty in Massachusetts. But some death penalty supporters say it's needed to deal with appropriate crimes. Death penalty opponents staged a number of events across the state last night as they have every year on the anniversary of the Sacco & Vanzetti executions.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Springfield police are looking for a suspect that allegedly shot at two narcotics police officers overnight. It happened just after three this morning on federal court right near the blue eagle restaurant. Springfield police department Captain Peter Dillon says two plain clothes narcotic officers were in the area when a man fired one shot at them. The officer weren't hurt and didn't return fire. Dillon says there's not suspect in custody at this time.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Police are searching for one of the drivers involved in an overnight accident in Springfield. Two cars were involved in an accident just before midnight on Hood Street. According to police Capt. Peter Dillon, the driver of a car that flipped over fled from the accident. The other driver was transported to Baystate Medical Center. Police are still looking for that driver who they believe caused the accident.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

A man convicted of the murder of a Florida girl learns his fate today. John Couey faces a judge in Florida to hear whether he will be sentenced to death. A jury found him guilty of raping and killing Jessica Lunsford in 2005. Couey has himself said that he expects the death penalty... And that's what the jury recommended... But the judge is the final arbiter in the case. Elsewhere in Florida, there's a hearing in the case of Lisa Nowak. She's the astronaut that is charged with attempting to kidnap her boyfriend's other girlfriend. Her attorney has

filed motions to suppress evidence found in her car. She is expected to be present at the hearing.

News **8/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

In the town of Leverett, the post office, Town hall, and a church were all robbed overnight. The post office is closed for today during the investigation and patrons are asked to go to the post office in Montague center to conduct business.

News **8/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Combating gang and youth violence is what an 11-million dollar grant will be used for. In the cities of Chicopee and Holyoke the grant will be split between 39 Massachusetts cities and towns. The amount of money awarded will be based on factors like property crime rates, the percentage of population between 15 and 19 years of age, and the number of young murder victims. The money will pay for programs ranging from youth outreach and mentoring, job training and increased surveillance.

News **8/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Friends and family of four Connecticut teenagers are in mourning. The students were all killed in a two car, horrific car crash in Bristol late Thursday night. Hundreds gathered last night for a candlelight vigil to remember the lives lost along route 6. The four teens were in the vehicle, ranged in age from fifteen to nineteen. A police spokesman said speed may have been a factor.

News **8/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Police say brazen thieves tore through six buildings in Hampshire and Franklin county towns, including a post office and the office of Cummington's Police Chief. State police investigating, are talking to some "persons of interest." In recent weeks there has been several church break-in's throughout the area. Now police are trying to connect the dots in all these crimes. The latest targets early Friday morning include four town halls, the Leverett post office, and even the office of the Cummington police Chief. Police say the thieves didn't find much money in any of the breaks. They broke through walls trying to crack wall safes, ransacking office buildings and causing thousands of dollars in damage. Burglarizing a post office is a federal offense. Residents in Leverett going to pick up their mail yesterday were turned away and left concerned the criminals got a hold of sensitive information. The Leverett post office was closed yesterday so authorities could conduct their investigation.

News **8/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Three British soldiers were killed in Afghanistan by "friendly fire" from two U-S.... F-15 fighter jets. Two other soldiers were wounded. The British patrol came under fire from Taliban fighters yesterday in southern Afghanistan. The unit called-in air support to help repel the attack, when air support dropped a bomb. It accidentally killed the three soldiers. The incident is being investigated to find out exactly how the mistake happened.

News **8/25/07** **6am** **:30**

And there looks like there could be dog trouble for star rapper, D-M-X. Sheriff's deputies raided the rapper's phoenix area home yesterday, removing a dozen pit bulls. Officials say the dogs were distressed and didn't have water or food outside in 115 degree heat. Some of the dogs were so malnourished you could see their ribs. A large cache of weapons was also found in the house. D-M-X was not at home at the time of the raid, but officials are seeking to question him.

News **8/25/07** **6pm** **:30**

The FBI has enlisted the help of a national television show known for catching criminals to bring to justice the men who committed a crime in the Springfield area. Police say three men suspected of holding up a Chicopee bank this past winter will probably strike again. Loretta Harbison clearly remembers the march 23rd Berkshire bank armed heist on Memorial Drive in Chicopee. It put her apartment complex and a school on lockdown. Now John Walsh and America's most wanted are getting involved. Tonight, the nationally syndicated program will feature the trio of suspects known as the "unknown east coast bandits." They already got other banks in Deer Park, New York and Cranston, Rhode Island. Employees at Masse's Seafood next door to the bank -- say the chaos and commotion was actually good for business! Now that the FBI is at a stalemate, it hopes America's most wanted will help bring a much needed break in the case before they strike again.

News **8/26/07** **7am** **:30**

Fire crews in Chicopee have put out a fire at an apartment building at 652 Chicopee Street, which has left four families homeless.

News **8/26/07** **7am** **:30**

A 22- year old Springfield man has died in an overnight motorcycle accident in Springfield. Lt. John Slepchuck says around midnight; two motorcycles were racing on Berkshire Avenue heading north when one motorcycle lost control, hitting a telephone pole. Police say that motorcycle was stolen. A witness says they saw two motorcycles clip each other. Yet the cause of the crash is still unknown at this time and police are still looking for the other rider.

News **8/26/07** **7am** **:30**

Six people are recovering this morning... After a multi car crash on interstate 291 east bound. State trooper Mark Weiner says the crash happened yesterday around 1 in the afternoon, 42 year-old Francisco Lozano's van rear ended a car near exit 5. He continued on and then hit another car near exit 6, flipping his van and landing upside down in a ditch. Chicopee fire fighters had to cut Lozano out of the van to transporting him to Baystate Medical Center. He is listed in serious condition. Three children and two adults from the first car also had to be taken to the hospital. All had minor injuries.

News **8/26/07** **7am** **:30**

Wildfires continue to burn in southern Greece. The Greek government declared the entire country in a state of emergency. The fires are burning across Greece for a second straight night. At least 47 people have died. Dozens of villages have been swallowed up by flames. Homes, cars and churches have been destroyed. Scores of people have been evacuated from their homes. Some nine-thousand firemen are working more than 80 fires across the country.

News **8/26/07** **6pm** **:30**

A 22- year old Springfield man was killed in an overnight motorcycle accident in the pine point section of Springfield. Two bikers were racing and the victim was riding a stolen bike. Just before midnight on Saturday night... Two motorcycles were racing on Berkshire Avenue near Eastland Street in Springfield... to a deadly crash. Joseph Gagne saw the accident's aftermath as debris from one of the motorcycles was strewn across his yard and street. 22- year old Jacob Pesquera- Ortiz was riding a stolen motorcycle out of Enfield, Connecticut. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Springfield police are still looking for the other rider.

News **8/26/07** **6pm** **:30**

A Good Samaritan was almost killed early this morning trying to break up a fight at a Springfield Street corner. Ironically 17 year old Lee Colman comes from Los Angeles and he was visiting family in Springfield. Police Lt. John Slepchuck says that Colman tried to break up a melee at Lamont and Fargo streets near Boston road in the pine point section of the city. The crowd then reportedly turned on him. Someone is said to have stepped out of the crowd and struck Colman over the head with a rock. The teenager suffered a serious injury but he's expected to survive the attack. His assailant is reported to have escaped into the darkness

News **8/26/07** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man drowns during a family outing in the Cape Cod community of Falmouth this weekend. 33-year old Edgar Juan Colon died at the Falmouth hospital last night less than an hour after a rescue team pulled him from the Goodwill Park Pond. Falmouth police officer Jamie Karl explains that members of colon's family had seen him go under in 20 feet of water

some 40 feet from shore. Karl said attempts at C-P-R right there failed to revive the Springfield man and he died in the emergency room within the hour.

News **8/26/07** **6pm** **:30**

The Massachusetts town of Easton is in mourning this weekend. Friends and loved ones grieve over the drowning death of 15 year old Aaron Ortiz. The teenager drowned Thursday in 12 feet of water in a lake in Maine. Not far from where he was attending football training camp. The associated press reports that his high school has cancelled its sports programs out of respect for the popular teenager who was about to enter his sophomore year. Witnesses say that a rescue team spent nearly two hours searching the lake before they recovered the body of the fifteen year old.

News **8/26/07** **11pm** **:30**

A motorcyclist was killed tonight in Chicopee when his bike collided with a car. This is the second fatal motorcycle accident in the Springfield area in 24 hours. Tom Charette of the Chicopee police department tonight's accident took place on Chicopee Street just before 8 o'clock when the motorcycle struck a car that was making a left hand on to Shaw Park Avenue. Charette says the male motorcycle operator suffered head and internal injuries. He was pronounced dead at Baystate Medical Center. The victim's name is not being released at this time.

News **8/26/07** **11pm** **:30**

At eleven tonight, a fire at a vacant home in Springfield, ripped thru the roof. The fire broke out at 95 St. James Avenue around 8 o'clock this evening, according to fire department spokesman Dennis Leger, the house appeared to be vacant. The flames quickly broke thru the roof. Leger says firefighters were ordered to evacuate the home and fight it from the outside. At this point their looking for how that fire was touched off. The Springfield arson squad-and the state police canine unit are involved in the investigation. Damage is set at \$85,000.

News **8/26/07** **11pm** **:30**

In Ludlow fire heavily damages, one section of a single family home. The fire broke out shortly before six o'clock tonight on 35 Paulding Road. According to Ludlow fire captain Chuck Cabana, the grease fire started in a kitchen basement and quickly spread to the cabinets. He says there was heavy damage to the basement area and smoke damage to the first floor.

News **8/27/07** **6am** **:30**

A deadly hot-air balloon accident in western Canada Friday night remains under investigation. Canadian investigators are looking into the accident, where a hot-air balloon

caught fire shortly before it lifted off. Witnesses say passengers then jumped from the basket of the balloon. Two people died in the fiery accident and crash, eleven people were injured. The balloon crashed into an R-V park in a Vancouver suburb.

News **8/27/07** **5pm** **:30**

Suspended Atlanta falcons quarterback Michael Vick; plead guilty this morning to a dog fighting conspiracy charge in federal court in Richmond, Virginia. Vick will not be cut from the Atlanta falcons right away. Team owner Arthur Blank says legal and salary-cap issues prevent that move from being made. The team says it intends to pursue the 22 million dollars in bonus money that Vick has already received from a contract he signed in 2004. Vick apologized to N-F-L commissioner Roger Goodell, Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, Coach Bobby Petrino, his Atlanta Falcons teammates and to his young fans. The judge in the case is considering whether to accept a plea deal that calls for a sentence of 12 to 18 months. Vick's sentencing hearings has been set for December 10th.

News **8/27/07** **5pm** **:30**

Trial of a Hampden man accused of murdering a 16 year old girl has been delayed until at least August 31st. 21 year old Josh Whitaker is charged in the beating death of Kelsea Owens a year ago this month. Police discovered Owens body outside this house on Allen Street in Hampden where she'd gone to visit Whitaker. She'd been beaten to death with a hammer. The trial was set to get underway today, but a motion to delay was filed.

News **8/27/07** **6pm** **:30**

A dramatic outburst in a Vermont courtroom, Michael Christmas was being arraigned in connection with the shooting death of Ronald Wilkins when a woman began shouting. Others in the courtroom tried to calm the woman but her outburst quickly escalated into an obscenity-laced tirade. Members of the court and sheriff's deputies had to restrain several people during the incident. The woman involved is believed to be the mother of the victim's children.

News **8/27/07** **6pm** **:30**

Atlanta falcons quarterback Michael Vick will most likely face prison time, after a judge accepted his guilty plea to a federal dog fighting charge. Michael Vick said he's sorry for "using bad judgment and making bad decisions."

News **8/27/07** **11pm** **:30**

Some Springfield residents think police need to pay closer attention to the crime in their neighborhood. About 20 residents of the maple high/ six corners section of the city complain they've seen an increase in vandalism, break-ins and noise. A Springfield police sergeant tried to reassure them that they live in a safe neighborhood, but that they will keep a close watch on six corners. Some of the residents would like to see outside surveillance cameras

installed. Police promised more patrols, and to meet with the neighbors again in 30 days to see if there's been any improvement.

News **8/28/07** **5am** **:30**

A police officer in president bush's motorcade died after an accident in New Mexico. Officer Germaine Casey's motorcycle crashed, at the airport in Albuquerque. Casey, a member of the nearby Rio Rancho police department, was toward the front of the motorcade. He somehow hit a curb, and then a tree. Investigators don't know why. The 40-year-old Casey leaves behind a wife and two teenaged children.

News **8/27/07** **5am** **:30**

An accident at Tennessee parade, dune buggy crashes into the crowd. And the whole thing was caught on tape. Home video shows the buggy driving in a figure eight at the Shriner's parade in Chattanooga earlier this month. Then, a minor accident sends it careening into the crowd. Five people were hurt, none serious. Police have not filed any charges, calling it a "terrible accident".

News **8/28/07** **6am** **:30**

Fires continue to burn across Greece today military helicopters have been called into rescue Greek villagers who are surrounded by smoke and flames. Firefighters from across Europe have been called to Greece to try to control the flames which have claimed dozens of lives. The fires have covered Athens in white ash and the smoke was in the air. High winds and dry conditions have fueled the flames and there have been accusations that some fires were set deliberately. The government has declared a nationwide emergency.

News **8/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

This past Friday, officials raided the home of rapper D-M-X in Arizona and found three dead dogs... 12 that were malnourished...along with guns and several cars with mismatched plates. They removed the animals and are testing a suspicious substance found in the rapper's bedroom, believed to be methamphetamine. An attorney for D-M-X says the rapper hadn't been home for several months and had hired someone to look after the animals.

News **8/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

The town's police officers are out in full force to promote safety, for the upcoming holiday weekend and the start of school classes. They will focus on areas where buses pick up and drop off students. Easthampton's chief of police says, they been issuing a lot of verbal and written warnings, plus citations. Officers hope this effort will help reduce driving offenses...

News **8/28/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A young couple from the eastern part of the state is facing charges for allegedly assaulting their newborn. 21-year old April rice of New Bedford is accused of breaking her 3-month old baby's leg, after slamming the baby into a chair because he wouldn't stop crying. The couple initially tried to re-set the leg themselves, but went to the hospital later. The baby's 31-year old father Joshua Cadwell is being charged with helping rice cover up the injury. Doctors say it's not uncommon for younger parents to have a hard time coping with the stresses of having a newborn. Dr. Burns says younger parents typically have a tough time in the beginning because they themselves are not fully developed emotionally. They have a higher rate of substance abuse, and are often not as educated as other parents.

News **8/28/07** **6pm** **:30**

The humane society of the United States has praised quarterback Michael Vick for his apology in the wake of dog fighting charges. Vick described dog fighting as "a terrible thing" and he vowed to redeem himself. Dog fighting is an underground activity that's seen in many parts of the country. A local animal control officer says she sees it in our area too. Officer Allenberg says pit bulls like this very friendly one up for adoption at the shelter are not naturally violent dogs. She says they have to be trained to attack dogs or people.

News **8/28/07** **6pm** **:30**

A former local teacher's, child sexual assault trial started in Springfield. Cameras were not allowed in the courtroom while the jury heard testimony from students. 43-year old James Houlihan is accused of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 14 while he was a teacher at Bowles Elementary School in Springfield. The school department has said the complaint appears to involve one student at the school. Houlihan has denied the charges.

News **8/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

A judge rules to uphold a ban on metal bats at New York City high school baseball games. Citing the health and safety of high school age students, federal judge John G. Koeltl upheld the ban today. The law which resulted from claims that metal bats cause balls to go further and faster, potentially causing greater risk of injury, is set to take effect September first. Other youth leagues and lawmakers are proposing similar bans. In New Jersey a 12-year old boy went into cardiac arrest after a ball hit by a metal bat struck him in the chest.

News **8/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

Idaho Senator Larry Craig, denied police claims of lewd conduct in an airport restroom. He insists he is not gay. The senator says the only thing he did wrong was plead guilty to disorderly conduct, hoping to quietly dispose of the matter. Craig insists police were mistaken when they accused him of looking for sex in a men's room at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul airport back in June. The three-term republican says he shouldn't have pleaded guilty to

disorderly conduct because he didn't do anything wrong and that accusations that he is gay are false. Now Senator Craig is deciding whether to run for a fourth term next year. Senate democrats are raising the possibility of an ethics investigation when congress reconvenes next month.

News **8/29/07** **5am** **:30**

The murder trial for a man accused of killing three people in Springfield has been postponed until next year. Antoine Banks' trial was originally set for late October, but yesterday a superior court judge accepted a defense motion to move the start date to March 4th. One of Banks' alleged victims was Stephen Pegram, an aide to Mayor Charlie Ryan. He was found shot to death in his Springfield home in February, 2005. Banks is also charged with killing Derrick Aberhart in November 2004 and Lashawn Barber in 2002.

News **8/29/07** **5am** **:30**

The former owner of 13 Wendy's restaurants is being arraigned today in Western Massachusetts. The restaurants closed abruptly last month because of financial problems and hundreds of workers went unpaid. Robert Burda of Dublin, Ohio faces multiple nonpayment of wages and larceny charges in Hampden county superior court.

News **8/29/07** **5am** **:30**

The man known as the "mad hatter" bank robber is expected to plead guilty to several bank robbery counts today. James Madison is suspected of robbing more than a dozen banks since September of last year. He earned his nickname by wearing different hats during each of his suspected holdups. Madison was convicted of the 1986 murder of his girlfriend, and was paroled in 2005.

News **8/29/07** **5am** **:30**

Republicans are calling for an ethics investigation into Idaho, Senator Larry Craig. Earlier this month, Craig pleaded guilty to soliciting lewd behavior in an airport bathroom. But now speaking out for the first time, Craig says he did nothing wrong. With his wife at his side, Senator Larry Craig declared: he says he did nothing wrong in this Minneapolis airport bathroom. Craig was arrested in June. This month, he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. An undercover officer accused him of soliciting sex by making gestures in the bathroom stall. Craig calls it a big mistake and says an eight-month newspaper investigation into his sexuality prompted him to plead guilty, to make it go away. Craig is up for re-election next year. He apologizes to voters and asked for another chance. Senate republicans calling for that ethics investigation say they'll also consider "other action." Senator Craig initially made that guilty plea without hiring a lawyer. He has one now and says he'll make no further comment. The three-term republican says he shouldn't have pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct -- because he didn't do anything wrong and those accusations that he is gay are false. Now Senator

Craig is deciding whether to run for a fourth term next year. Senate democrats are raising the possibility of an ethics investigation when congress reconvenes next month.

News **8/29/07** **5am** **:30**

In world news this morning.. A high ranking member of the gulf drug cartel was arrested in Mexico City. Juan Carlos de la Cruz Reyna believed to be a senior figure in the cartel was arrested along with six other drug suspects. They were found at a restaurant in an upscale neighborhood in Mexico City. Reyna is wanted in Texas for allegedly threatening to kill U-S federal agents. He also allegedly began to coordinate drug shipments from Colombia to Central America.

News **8/29/07** **12pm** **:30**

A Springfield woman becomes the city's fourteenth homicide victim this year after two masked men apparently shot her on her front lawn. Springfield police officer Marcia Brown identifies those men as 18-year-old Maxwell Wiggins and 17-year-old Swinkles Laporte both of Springfield. Police captain Robert Mcfarlund received a 9-11 emergency call around 10 last night, for a break in and shots fired, to 102 Parallel Street in the liberty heights section of the city. Police found 46 year old Tracy Bennett on the front lawn of her home with gun shot wounds. The mother of three was taken to Baystate Medical Center where she later died. The victim's daughter says she wants her mother to be remembered. Amanda said her mother worked at Donut Dip in West Springfield as a baker for the past 15 years. Employees there say she was a hard worker and a joy to work with.

News **8/29/07** **12pm** **:30**

The only officer charged in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal was acquitted of one charge but found guilty of another. In Maryland, army lieutenant Colonel Steven Jordan was cleared on the charge of failure to control the soldiers accused of abusing prison detainees in Iraq. The military court jury at Fort Meade found Jordan guilty of disobeying an order to not discuss the investigation with anyone.

News **8/29/07** **12pm** **:30**

The number of people killed in alcohol-related car crashes in Massachusetts continues to drop. Forty percent of all motor vehicle fatalities in Massachusetts in 2006 were alcohol-related. That's down 7.4 percent from 2005 and follows a 20 percent decline between 2004 and 2005. Nationwide, more than 17,600 people were killed in car crashes last year involving a drunk driver, down nearly 1 percent from 2005.

News **8/29/07** **5pm** **:30**

Two men from Clinton are being held without bail in connection with a fire that destroyed an abandoned paper factory in Erving. At a hearing in Orange District Court, a judge ordered that John Rousseau and Michael Dreslinski, both 28-years-old, be held without bail on charges of one count each of burning of a mill and conspiracy. The fire happened July 30th at

a vacant warehouse at the Usher Paper Mill. Firefighters from 20 towns and 3 states battled the blaze.

News **8/29/07** **6pm** **:30**

Illegal dumping problems continue to get worse in one Springfield neighborhood. Leon Grice lives on Cedar Street, near three vacant lots which have become a prime illegal dumping location over the years. Here you can find tires, car seats, rugs, a pool...and even a bed. Last Thursday, he noticed a new pile of rubble behind his property. Tuesday, the city confiscated trash bins from the homes that have not paid their new 90-dollar trash pick up fee. Grice believes the move is making matters worse. Earlier this month, they were taking care of the problem. They had received a court order to clean the lots through the winter. We were also told that work was scheduled to begin within a week. We'll it's been three weeks and everything looks the same.

News **8/29/07** **11pm** **:30**

A grand jury has handed up murder and rape indictments against a homeless man accused of breaking into his grandmother's house and kidnapping his six-year-old cousin. 20-year old Ryan bois has been held without bail since pleading not guilty to the murder of Joanna Mullin at his arraignment in Quincy District Court August 6th. Police found the little girl's body wrapped in a blanket in the back of a vehicle driven by Bois after a chase through Weymouth and Quincy.

News **8/30/07** **5am** **:30**

A Springfield woman is murdered during an alleged home invasion. And two men are in police custody. Captain Robert Mcfarlund says that police received a 911 emergency call around 10 last night. A break in and shots fired to 102 Parallel Street when police arrived on scene. They found a 46 year old female with gun shot wounds. She was taken to Baystate Medical Center where she later died. Captain Mcfarlund says following an investigation two men were taken into custody. Springfield police commissioner Edward Flynn is expected to speak to the media later today.

News **8/30/07** **5am** **:30**

A deadly fire in Boston kills two firefighters. Paul Cahill and Warren Payne died last night in the lined of duty.10 other Firefighters were injured, two critically injured. The firefighters were fighting a four-alarm fire in West Roxbury. It started in a restaurant, and the flames spread to nearby businesses. It's still unclear how that fire started.

News **8/30/07** **5am** **:30**

A state panel has released its report on the Virginia tech shootings. It's sharply critical of campus police, saying they could have saved lives, but made mistakes and acted too slowly. When Seung-Hui Cho shot the first two students in April, campus police thought it was a domestic incident. And the shooter was off campus. The state panel says that may have

been a mistake. They suggest an earlier campus wide alert or canceling classes could've lowered the death toll. 33 students, including the gunman died. The panel also found campus police misunderstood federal privacy laws, so they didn't share Cho's troubled history with mental health professionals who could have helped him. Cho made an appointment at the campus counseling center but there was no follow up. This report traces his problems back to middle school...when teachers noticed suicidal and homicidal thoughts in his writings. He spent a year on medication. The Washington post reports just a year before the shootings, Cho wrote a paper that once source describes as "a kind of blueprint" for the massacre. The state panel praised coordination with local police and Governor Tim Kaine for closing a loophole that allowed some mental health patients to buy guns. But the report says communication with victims' families was handled poorly. Some of those families are upset they weren't included on this panel.

News **8/30/07** **12pm** **:30**

An investigation in Hampden yesterday lead, officials to uncover large amounts of marijuana growing in south the end of town. Hampden police officers seized 259 marijuana plants between 4 to 8 feet tall. The average street value of each plant ranges from 15 hundred to two thousand dollars. Officials are looking into who might be responsible for growing the plants.

News **8/30/07** **6pm** **:30**

Two Springfield teenagers were arraigned on murder charges today. They're accused of shooting a 46-year-old liberty heights woman to death last night. The victim in the case is 46 year old Tracy Bennet of Paralell Street in Springfield. And this afternoon, her alleged killers were brought before a judge for arraignment. The oldest is 18 year old Maxwell Wiggins of Princeton street, along with 17 year old Swinkles Laporte of Edgemont Street. The Hampden County Da's office has issued a statement on the case they say that victim Tracy Bennet's son and his girlfriend, and Bennet's daughter and her boyfriend, had been selling marijuana from the family home. Shortly before ten last night, two individuals arrived mug shots partially masked demanding cash and drugs. While leaving, the victim arrived home and was shot. The suspects ran away, and were caught a short time later. The daughter says both Wiggins and Laporte have a history of arrests including drug charges, larceny and assault and battery. And both are now being held without bail.

News **8/30/07** **11pm** **:30**

The Minneapolis police department released audio recordings today in which Idaho senator Larry Craig denies soliciting an undercover police officer. In the recording made during his arrest in June, Senator Craig says that he may have touched the officer's foot with his foot while they were in separate side-by-side bathroom stalls. The tapes also include a conversation Craig had with an investigative officer following the incident. Senator Craig pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct august first. Despite his guilty plea, Craig says he did nothing wrong and has hired an attorney. He says he's a victim of a police misunderstanding and gay activists who oppose his policies.

News **8/30/07** **11pm** **:30**

Suffield police dispatcher Lorraine Morelli says that a safe was broken into but she couldn't tell us if anything was stolen. This is the latest in a spree of burglaries and vandalism targeting municipal buildings and churches in western and central Massachusetts. Town halls in Spencer, Brookfield and Leicester were all hit sometime Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. About a dozen churches and town halls in Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties also have been broken into or vandalized in the past few weeks.

News **8/31/07** **6am** **:30**

A Massachusetts teen was killed in an ATV accident in Connecticut. State police say 16-year-old Justin Ramshur of Harwichport, lost control of his ATV and struck several small trees around 5 pm in Woodstock, Connecticut. His mother was traveling behind him on another ATV and found him. The boy was unresponsive when police arrived and was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

News **9/1/07** **9am** **:30**

A rash of town hall break-ins from Franklin County to Connecticut has area residents worried that life is changing in their communities. State police say area town halls have been broken into all across western Massachusetts and down in Connecticut. Suffield was the lately stop on the town hall tour for these burglars. Back in Goshen, Autumn Boyle-Dawson who works at the learning loft below the town hall here says life hasn't been the same. Now the front door at the town hall is locked.

News **9/4/07** **5am** **:30**

West Springfield police are looking for a suspect who held up a local Cumberland farms store at gunpoint. It happened just before noon yesterday at the Cumberland farms store near the rotary on Park Street according to West Springfield police Sargent Thomas Wilkerson. The store clerk was approached by man wearing a hood. He showed a gun and demanded money. The suspect then fled in a Dodge Avenger. No one was injured in the incident. Anyone with any information about the robbery is asked to call West Springfield police.

News **9/4/07** **5am** **:30**

Daniel Biechele will soon be eligible for parole. The former 'great white' tour manager has been in jail since May 2006 after admitting his part in the Rhode Island nightclub fire that killed 100 people. Some relatives of the victims say they support an early release for Biechele who has a four-year prison term. Some of those relatives are expected to speak tomorrow to the parole board. Biechele's parole hearing is scheduled for September 19th. .

News **9/4/07** **5am** **:30**

An 11-year-old boy was killed and his 8-year-old brother seriously injured yesterday when a large metal gate fell on them as they played on the grounds of a Methuen school. Authorities identified the victim as 11-year-old Timothy Dileo. His eight-year-old brother Andrew suffered serious injuries. Their older brother, Steven, and 13-year-old Brandon Leport were unhurt. Police are investigating.

News **9/4/07** **6am** **:30**

A 17-year old from New Bedford will face a judge today after allegedly stabbing a man from Attleboro to death over the weekend. Authorities claim Robert Pelletier stabbed 18-year-old David Morales Saturday night after some sort of confrontation outside of his apartment. He was taken to sturdy memorial hospital where he was pronounced dead. Pelletier was arrested a short time after the incident.

News **9/4/07** **6am** **:30**

Thieves have ways to crack into your car's unique code. Kristin smith reports on one way to protect your car from this type of crime. A new kind of high tech hacking is giving headaches to hundreds of drivers. Crooks have found a way to crack your car's codes without even breaking your window. The classic smash and grab theft is still a big problem, experts say, but that gives thieves unwanted attention. So some thieves figured out a way to bypass all that by using your keyless remote against you. When you hear the beep of your car locking, it gives peace of mind to most of us. It tells you no one, except you, can get in. Gary Lindstrom got an alarm installed in his car when he realized all that may be a false sense of security. His car was broken into and stolen four years ago. Security expert David Barthof says it can be easy to break into a car that only has a factory-made keyless entry remote. He says they'll actually use it against you. Barthof says it's smart to get what's known as an "aftermarket" alarm system, which means it wasn't made at the factory. Now for Gary, that's piece of mind. Factory made keyless remotes use codes with millions of combinations. The problem, they say, is some thieves are a step ahead of that technology.

News **9/4/07** **11pm** **:30**

An instance of Cemetery vandalism has West Springfield police detectives determining whether they have a hate crime on their hands. It happened Monday night at the B'nai Jacob Jewish Cemetery on king's highway. Vandals toppled more than two dozen gravestones. West Springfield police captain John Ferrarini says police are treating the investigation like a hate crime, which carries stricter penalties than the crime of desecration of a burial site. The vandals left an adjacent Catholic Cemetery untouched. No arrests and no suspects.

News **9/4/07** **11pm** **:30**

Chicopee police are warning residents to lock their doors. Chicopee police sergeant Chris Lareau says that a woman at 54 Kowal Drive reported coming home to find a strange man in her house. Sergeant Lareau says she told police she screamed, and the man struck her in the face several times and ran out of the house. The woman was not seriously injured. The suspect is described as a clean shaven white man with short brown hair and wire rimmed glasses.

News **9/4/07** **11pm** **:30**

A New England State is among four states with the distinction of more than half their traffic deaths involving drunk drivers. The national highway traffic safety administration used 2006 statistics to sort out fatal accidents in which at least one driver had a blood-alcohol content of point-zero-eight or higher. Hawaii fared worst, with alcohol playing a significant part in 52-percent of all traffic deaths. Rhode Island is second with 51-percent while South Carolina and Wisconsin tied at 50-percent. Utah had the lowest percentage of alcohol related deaths at only 24 percent.

News **9/5/07** **5am** **:30**

Springfield police detectives are investigating the city's 15th homicide this morning. It happened on Allison Lane around one thirty. Springfield police detective Denis Pryor said three suspects attempted a home invasion and shot a woman in the head. Springfield spokeswoman Jennifer Flagg said the 54 year old woman, a resident of the home, was transported to Baystate Medical Center where she was pronounced dead a short time later. According to Jennifer Flagg there is a strong possibility the killing is drug related. Flagg says it appears at this time that the home was targeted and a resident knew the perpetrators.

News **9/5/07** **5am** **:30**

At least 11 people are dead in a bomb attack at a Baghdad bus stop. Police and hospital workers say 19 others were hurt. The blast this morning went off in an area on the fringes of the huge Shiite district of Sadr City where minibuses had stopped to pick up people headed to work. Associated press television news video shows blood on the ground littered with shattered glass, shoes and other personal item. Nine people were killed by the blast. Two others died at the hospital.

News **9/5/07** **5am** **:30**

Authorities have arrested three suspected Islamic militants in Germany, avoiding what the German defense minister says was an imminent threat. The men are accused of plotting attacks on the big U.S. Ramstein air base and Frankfurt's International Airport.

News **9/5/07** **5am** **:30**

The owner of a Dallas, Texas liquid recycling company says he can't believe he was robbed of most of his heavy equipment. And it was all caught on tape. Surveillance cameras caught two men jumping the fence of the company and stealing a heavy duty pickup over the weekend. They then used that pickup to ram the fence of the company to break in and start loading up. They even hitched a stolen trailer to the truck, and stacked it up with everything from generators, to power washers and even a box of paper towels.

News **9/5/07** **6am** **:30**

Congress will look into that deadly mine accident out west in Utah where six miners were trapped and never found. Three rescue workers were killed trying to find them. The senate appropriations subcommittee on labor, health and human services takes up the Crandall canyon mine disaster. Robert Murray, a co-owner of the mine and Cecil Roberts, president of the united mine workers of America will testify.

News **9/5/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

The only company indicted in last year's fatal big dig tunnel collapse, pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges today. Powers fasteners were arraigned in Suffolk Superior courtroom. Powers fasteners provided the epoxy used in the I-90 connector. Prosecutors say the company knew the epoxy they sold was unsuitable for the heavy ceiling panels in the tunnel. Company president Jeffrey Powers called the indictment "ridiculous" and "scandalous". The company faces a maximum fine of only \$1,000 if convicted.

News **9/5/07** **6pm** **:30**

The Amherst DPW has installed traffic calming devices on Lincoln Avenue. It's call a speed cushion. The three devices are designed to slow car and truck traffic while allowing emergency response vehicle to pass without any interruptions. Many who live in the vicinity say it's a solution to a problem they been fighting for years. The devices aren't permanent yet. For now, the town is taking part in a two month trial period. Whether they become permanent depends on the traffic data collected.

News **9/5/07** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield police need the public's help finding who's responsible for the city's 15th murder. The Hampden county district attorney's turning to the public for help solving Springfield's 15th murder of 2007. 54 year old Cassandra Oliver was shot and killed in her 21 Alison lane home in Springfield around one thirty this morning. Springfield police detectives now want your help finding her killer. Take a good look at this white, 2008 Pontiac "G-6" with New Jersey plates. It was seen speeding away from the scene, and the occupants got out and escaped police. Police are looking into the possibility that the shooting was drug related.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

A South Korean appeals court sentenced the head of Hyundai motor group to three years in prison today, but suspended the sentence for five years. The appeals court upheld a lower court decision earlier this year that found Chung Mong-Koo guilty of fraud. The five year suspension of the sentence eliminated concerns over a management vacuum at Hyundai, which is facing a slowdown in overseas sale. Chung was found guilty in February for breach of trust, embezzlement of company money and setting up slush funds.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

A former teacher in Springfield has been sentenced to two years in prison today after being found guilty of child sexual assault. Last Wednesday 43 year old James Houlihan was found guilty of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14. Houlihan was a teacher at Bowles elementary school in Springfield. He received the maximum sentence of two years in prison.

News **9/6/07** **5pm** **:30**

A Springfield police officer has been taken into custody after a standoff with Hampden and state police in Hampden it happened late this afternoon at a residence on Stoney Hill Road in Hampden both the officers' wife and three month old child were in the house at the time no one was injured in the incident. No word on specific charges.

News **9/6/07** **6pm** **:30**

Many downtowns are struggling with crime, and people flocking to suburban malls to shop. Springfield is looking to revive its downtown economy. The pioneer valley planning commission sponsored a forum for area planners today on downtown development. It focuses on how communities can re-invent themselves. But how do cities like Springfield overcome such things as a fear of crime?

News **9/6/07** **6pm** **:30**

Attendees at today's forum also heard how providence, Rhode Island turned itself around thru a major revitalization effort.

News **9/6/07** **11pm** **:30**

A Springfield police officer faces arraignment tomorrow on a host of charges connected to an alleged hostage situation in Hampden. He allegedly assaulted and threatened to kill his own wife. 14 year veteran Springfield police officer Thomas Michel was arrested this afternoon at his home in the small town of Hampden. And, if the charges against Michel are any indication, the problem in this case appears to be domestic violence. At seven Wednesday night, Hampden police responded to a domestic violence call at 62 Stonyhill Road, the home of 44 year old Springfield police officer Thomas Michel. After Hampden police obtained an arrest warrant, they called for the assistance of the state police hostage negotiation team. Nearly 20 hours later, on Thursday afternoon, Hampden police say Michel allowed his wife and baby to leave the house, and Michel was taken into custody. Officer Michel is now charged with, assault and battery-threat to commit a crime-assault and battery with a dangerous weapon-assault to murder while armed Springfield police spokesperson Jennifer Flagg says officer Thomas Michael has been suspended without pay pending an administrative hearing on the matter next week. Michel is scheduled to be arraigned in the morning in palmer district court.

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

Springfield detectives are investigating the death of a city man. Just before two O'clock, the victim was found on the bottom of an outside stairwell at 60 Byers Street. Lieutenant John Slepchuck says the victim is in his 50's. He adds that the man had visual injuries, but it's unclear if they were caused by a fall down the stairs or by an assault. Police continue to investigate.

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

A family spokesman says Portuguese police are naming the mother of missing British toddler Madeleine McCann a formal suspect in the case. Spokesman David Hughes says Kate McCann was questioned for almost 11 hours yesterday, and is due back at a police station today. When asked about reports that Kate McCann would be named a suspect in her daughter's disappearance, Hughes said: "they told her last night that it would happen today. That's definite."

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

In Iraq, the U.S. command has announced more combat deaths. A statement today says three U.S. soldiers were killed in northern Iraq yesterday when a bomb exploded near their vehicle.

News **9/7/07** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield police, at this point, are not releasing the name of a man whose body was found early this morning in a stairwell. The man's death has been determined to be accidental. Just before two o'clock, the victim was found at the bottom of an outside stairwell at 60 Byers Street. Lieutenant John Slepchuck says the victim is in his 50's. He adds that the man had visual injuries and it was determined they were caused by a fall down the stairs and not from an assault.

News **9/7/07** **11pm** **:30**

Police captain Joseph Parylak says that a 17year old male was stabbed outside of Central High in Springfield. This happened at about 9pm tonight. A football game was going on at the high school at the time. Captain Parylak says the victim suffered minor injuries to the buttocks and was taken to a local Hospital. The victim's name has not been released.

News **9/7/07** **11pm** **:30**

No bail for a Springfield police officer who's accused of trying to kill his wife and child. Thomas Michel appeared in Palmer District Court today after a two-hour standoff at his Hampden home yesterday. Michel's wife Judith and step son were in court today during his arraignment. Hampden police say Michel said he would kill himself and his family if anyone

tried to enter the house on stony hill road. After talking with a negotiator for more than two hours, he let his wife and child go and surrendered a short time later.

During Thomas Michel's arraignment today the judge said he will to be held without the right to bail until his dangerousness hearing on Monday. Springfield police spokesperson Jennifer Flagg says Officer Michel has been suspended without pay pending an administrative hearing on the matter next week.

News **9/7/07** **11pm** **:30**

Detective sergeant Mark Rolland says that the man walked in showed a note that said he had a gun, and took an undisclosed amount of money. The man is about six feet tall, heavy set and between 35 and 45 years old. He was wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, jeans and a brown baseball hat. Rolland says police recovered some of the money on Banner Street in Indian orchard because the robber dropped it when a dye pack exploded.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

Friday night's double stabbing during the Central High School football game may have lead to a shooting last night in Springfield. It happened shortly after six o'clock last night at 797 Carew Street, near the intersection of Liberty Street. Springfield police Lt. Cheryl Claprood says a 16-year-old man was shot in the thigh. His injuries don't appear to be non-life threatening. Another man was pistol whipped during that attack, suffering facial bruises. He refused hospital treatment. Claprood says two suspects are in custody. One is 32-year-old Chelsea Chest. Police captain Peter Dillon says chest drove the teenage shooter to Carew Street last night in search of their target. Police are still searching for a third suspect.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

Springfield police captain Peter Dillan says Friday's stabbings which injured a Central High School student and a police officer appear to be gang related. Central High School's assistant principle says once school officials found out about the fight the stadium went into lock-down.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

Ty Alexander, Sean Cangierter and Nicholas clay were charged with resisting arrest and fighting. The school might start requiring students to show an ID to get into the game so only kids from central high school can attend.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

New Hampshire police arrested two Massachusetts men on charges that they broke into town offices. Now, police are looking into whether the men were involved in similar crimes in Massachusetts and Connecticut. 26-year-old Justin Douglas of Springfield and thirty-two-year-old David Heck of Westfield were arrested Friday in Hillsboro. Douglas was arrested as police checked a suspicious car. Officers used a police dog to track down Heck, who ran off. They are charged with stealing from the town offices in Hillsboro and neighboring Windsor. In

the past few weeks a number of town halls in Hampshire and Franklin County were hit, in addition to some in central Massachusetts and Connecticut.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

A quiet Connecticut town, just over the Massachusetts line is in shock over a suspicious death. Police said the death is "suspicious". But residents say, they have an idea what happened and feared this day would come. Ida Romano looked out her window Saturday morning, to see Connecticut state police and Suffield police cordoning off the J and B package store at 855 Thompsonville Road. As the medical examiner left, neighbors feared the worst for the woman they knew as "Jackie." police found 66-year-old Jadwiga Bodnar dead in her adjoining apartment, quickly taking a man on the property into custody calling him a "person of interest". Neighbors say he and Bodnar had a rocky relationship. This is video of Bodnar in her liquor store in August, after being arrested for liquor violations. But longtime friends, remember Jackie as someone who would give what little she had. She leaves behind two sons.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

Holyoke police Lt. Michael Higgins warns of an attempted scam on Cabot Street. Lt. Higgins says a driver was turning the corner as a 21 year old Holyoke man came out of nowhere and jumped onto the hood of the car. He blamed the driver and offered to settle without notifying the insurance company. Higgins told us that a witness saw everything and blew the whistle.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

A North Andover woman pleads not guilty to charges including running a house of prostitution involving a minor. Thirty-two-year-old Melissa Halstrom is accused of inducing a minor to prostitution and maintaining a house of prostitution. Halstrom's attorney says his client maintains her innocence and is "devastated" by the accusations. At her arraignment in Lawrence district court she was ordered held on \$150,000 cash bail. Police say a 16-year-old from Maine first reported she had been recruited.

News **9/8/07** **7am** **:30**

Five people are forced out of a Springfield duplex by fire but officials say, they were actually trespassing by seeking shelter there. Springfield fire department spokesman Dennis Leger says they were called to 190-192 Quincy Street around 12:30 this morning. Along with flames, they found two people living on the first floor and three on the second floor. There was no electricity to the building, but the delinquent dwellers had apparently rigged up extension cords to the utility pole outside. Leger says the owner of this apartment home stopped renting it when he fell ill, much to everyone's surprise it was never fully vacated. Since there was limited power to the home, they were using candles and that is thought to be

the cause. Police say they have not arrested anyone, the arson and bomb squad is handling this investigation.

News **9/9/07** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield police are looking into whether last night's shooting was gang-retaliation for a stabbing at Blunt Park on Friday night. One of the victim's is speaking out denying he had a hand in it. The shooter is still at large. Police believe a gang-related brawl and stabbing outside Springfield's Central High School Friday lead to a teenager being shot Saturday on Carew Street and Clayton Lewis, being pistol whipped in the head. The 16-year old says he dodged the bullets. Springfield police Lt. Cheryl Laprood says the department quickly arrested two people, a juvenile male and 32-year-old woman. Police believe Saturday's incident was meant to settle a score. Clayton is friends with the teen stabbed at the football game. But he and his mother Sabrina deny any gang relation. Rather claiming the shooter, he has a vendetta against the family. They chalk the non-sense violence up to boredom. They hope the violence will calm down, for their family's safety, and the future of the city. Police are still searching for a third suspect responsible for Saturday night's shooting.

News **9/9/07** **6pm** **:30**

Suffield police say they're hoping to have more answers regarding the suspicious death of a local business owner. 66- year old Jadwiga Bodnar was found dead Saturday morning in her house next door to the liquor store she owns. Lieutenant Craig Huntley would not say the cause of death. But did say Suffield detectives are interviewing a person of interest arrested on her property on unrelated charges.

News **9/9/07** **11pm** **:30**

A Pre dawn fire at an Amherst apartment building left one occupant with burns to his arm and three police officers having to be checked for smoke inhalation. Fire broke out shortly after 5 o'clock this morning in building 127 at the boulders. Ten families have been temporarily displaced as a result of that fire while repairs are taking place.

News **9/9/07** **11pm** **:30**

A California gray whale died after being harpooned and shot Saturday off the coast of Northwest Washington. The whale was killed by members of the Makah tribe in what may have been an illegal hunt according to a spokesman for the national marine fisheries service. Tribal leaders released a statement saying the whale killing violates their law and that the hunters responsible will be prosecuted. Five hunters were detained by the U-S coast guard then handed over to the Makah tribal police. The tribal leaders say the five were booked into a detention facility and released after posting bail.

News **9/10/07** **5am** **:30**

A terrifying situation for a Leesburg, Florida mother her child's bus stop is knowingly placed in front of a sex offender's home. That's where the school district wants the bus to pick up students. Mother Ruth Maarref says she can't believe the school district moved her 8-year-old son's bus stop, right in front of convicted sex offender Carl Mancini's home. Mancini is convicted of sexual battery of a nine year old girl he knew in 1986. He says parents shouldn't worry and it's the district's decision-not his-to place young children within feet of him twice a day, every school day. The district says it moved the stop here this year to accommodate a special needs student on the route. State law requires bus stops to be 1000 feet from a home where a convicted sex offender "on supervision" lives. Mancini's served his time, and isn't on supervision. ." the district says the stop stays. Ruth says under her watchful eye.

News **9/10/07** **6am** **:30**

In Connecticut, a Bridgeport man goes back to court today as a jury begins hearing evidence on whether he should receive the death sentence. Russell Peeler junior was convicted in 2000 in the shooting deaths of a 29-year-old woman and her eight-year-old son. A previous Bridgeport superior court jury deadlocked on whether peeler should be executed. There are eight men on Connecticut's death row

News **9/10/07** **6pm** **:30**

A 12 year old girl struck by an all terrain vehicle generates fresh controversy over ATV's in the town of Southwick. Fire Chief Don Morris says, an ATV backed out of a driveway last night onto college highway and slightly injured a 12 year old girl the chief says many residents have complained about ATV's cutting through their properties without permission. This long time a Southwick resident says she's called police more than once to complain. But they're usually gone by the time the cops get there. She worries that her outdoor pets are in jeopardy, not only from ATV's but also dirt bikes..

News **9/10/07** **6pm** **:30**

State and local police in Greenfield have arrested a man who kept eluding capture by hiding in corn fields for a better part of the afternoon. Greenfield was assisted by the Montague k-9 unit and state police. 23-year old Josh Eastman allegedly caused a violent disturbance at the Dunkin Donuts in town this morning, before taking off on foot. Officials gave chase for four hours and ultimately caught up with the Greenfield man at 3:00 on Leyden Road. Initially it was unclear if he was armed. Officer Tim currier says Eastman is being held on a host of charges.

News **9/10/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield police arrested a high school student after school officials said they found a hand gun in his locker. It happened this morning at the high school of science and technology. School resource officer Lawrence Petrucci said school Sci-tech administrators discovered an unloaded 22 caliber pistol during a random search of student lockers. Police arrested 17 year

old Tyrus Martin and brought him to Springfield district court for arraignment on charges of carrying a firearm on school grounds, and carrying a firearm without a license. No ammunition was found. Officer Petrucci says the school routinely conducts random locker searches.

News **9/10/07** **11pm** **:30**

A one car crash closed a stretch of route five leading to the south end bridge in Agawam. The car spun out of control taking out several feet of guardrail and demolishing the car. Impact from the crash left car parts strewn all over the roadway. The engine ended up nearly fifty feet away. The driver and passenger were taken to a hospital. Agawam police closed off the rotary and the bridge off of route 57.

News **9/10/07** **11pm** **:30**

A head-on collision in Springfield claims the life of a teenager. Springfield police lieutenant Cheryl Clapprood says two vehicles collided on Boston Road at about nine thirty tonight at the intersection with Tembly Street. Clapprood describes the victim only as an 18 year old male.

News **9/11/07** **5am** **:30**

A Holyoke police officer was smashed in the face with a sledge hammer while on routine patrol this summer, is finally well enough to talk about his horrifying experience. It was a warm summer night when 29 year veteran Holyoke police officer Alfredo Guzman was struck in the face while sitting in his cruiser. After the attack, Guzman hit the gas to get away ramming this apartment building and accidentally injuring a man inside. With one swing of the hammer, the attacker knocked out many of Guzman's teeth, fractured his face and jaw, and took much of the vision from one eye. Officer Guzman now suffers short term memory problems it happened July fifth. 38 year old Alfredo Rivera of Holyoke faces charges of attempted murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery on a police officer. Guzman says he tries not to focus much energy on his alleged attacker. Guzman says one of the hardest parts of his ordeal is not being able to work. Doctors say it's unclear whether Guzman will ever wear his Holyoke police uniform again. His wife and family are just happy he's still here.

News **9/11/07** **6am** **:30**

An official in turkey says "a possible disaster has been prevented."He says sniffer dogs discovered a bomb-laden vehicle parked in an Ankara garage. Police increased security measures in the country amid fears of an attack timed to the anniversary of the terror strike on America six years ago. Houses near the multi-story covered garage were evacuated as a precaution.

News **9/11/07** **6am** **:30**

State and local police have closed off a portion of river road from route 116 to beaver drive, that's just north of the Sunderland bridge. Area residents said police have been on the scene since one A.M this morning. Police said the district attorney's office is expected to issue a statement later today.

News **9/11/07** **6am** **:30**

Chicopee needs more time to craft a new law limiting where convicted sex offenders can live in the city. Chicopee alderman James Tillotson says the ordinance committee wants more input from the planning and law departments. They want to keep high level sex offenders from living near schools, parks, playgrounds and licensed daycare centers. While modeling their proposal after a similar ordinance in Springfield, Chicopee wants to tailor it to their city's needs.

News **9/11/07** **12pm** **:30**

A body's been found close to the Connecticut River in Deerfield, and police are investigating. The northwest district attorney issued a statement this afternoon. They say the body of a 30 to 40 year old man was found by a fisherman around 630 last night. It was found on a ridge line by the river in South Deerfield, off river road, and just north of route 116 and the blue bridge to Sunderland. Official vehicles, from the local and state police, lined river road though out the day. Veronica Mard of Deerfield's been watching the scene. She and here husband are trained as first responder emits-they may have been the first to notice something wrong. But then late last night they saw the blue lights gathering on river road--which was then closed to through traffic throughout the day. The area of police activity includes a parking spot for people who canoe and kayak along the river. But right now there's little information on who the victim might be and no confirmation he's the victim of foul play. But among those on the scene the state police crime scene services unit and the medical examiners office in Boston. The Da's office says an autopsy will be performed on the body tomorrow.

News **9/11/07** **6pm** **:30**

Police in Suffield, Connecticut continue to hold Ronald Demello, who they're calling "a person of interest", in the suspicious death of a local business woman. The body of 66 year old Jadwiga Bodnar was found in her home Friday night. Her house is attached to the J and D liquor store she owned and ran. An autopsy found she died from blunt trauma injury to her abdomen. The man being held was arrested on unrelated charges and was taken into custody at the murder scene.

News **9/11/07** **6pm** **:30**

Chicopee police are looking for a man who robbed the Chicopee savings bank branch on Burnett Road this afternoon. Chicopee police sergeant Jeffrey Nadeau it happened just before 1:30 this afternoon. A man walked up to a teller and passed a note saying he had a gun. No gun was shown. The teller handed over an undisclosed amount of cash, and the robber drove away in a newer green Chevrolet Impala. The car may have been seen heading east on the mass pike.

News **9/11/07** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield teenager is dead after an accident along Boston road last night. 18 year old Russell Potter, junior of Springfield was killed in the two vehicle crash. Springfield police officer Marcia Brown says the accident happened at Boston road and Temby Street around 9 last night. Potter's car was hit by an oncoming vehicle that crossed into his lane. At this time, no citations have been issued against the driver of the other vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.

News **9/11/07** **6pm** **:30**

Some traffic trouble along interstate-91 southbound today. This is the scene around noon at the Chicopee curve. A tractor trailer went up on the median guard rail. The mess caused plenty of traffic backups, both southbound and northbound. No one was injured.

News **9/11/07** **11pm** **:30**

A Sci-Tech student's in big trouble after allegedly bringing a handgun to school. School officials found the pistol during a random search at Sci-Tech Monday morning. Police say the 22-caliber pistol was found in the backpack of 17-year old Tyrus Martin-Dancy. It wasn't loaded and no ammunition was found, but still caused concern among students. Ruben Mendina-Suarez was outside the classroom when the firearm was found. Martin-Dancy was arraigned on several charges Monday. He faces disciplinary action at Sci-Tech. The principal says the student's been suspended.

News **9/12/07** **5am** **:30**

Westfield police say they seized more than 100-thousand dollars of items stolen from town halls and churches in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire. Valuable items as a cement mixer, seven laptops, a stockpile of printer cartridges, and even a Remington Revolver all items taken over the course of the past few weeks from churches and city and town halls from New Hampshire to Connecticut. The two men charged with stealing all of that stuff are from right here in western Massachusetts. 32 year old David heck of Eastfield, and 26 year old Justin Douglas of Springfield are being held in new Hampshire. Westfield police Sgt ray Manos says they were apprehended in New Hampshire late last week when they were allegedly caught trying to rob a town hall in Hillsboro. After receiving word that one of the men was from Westfield, officers went to David heck's home at 14 Lozier Ave to investigate and that's when they found all of this. Sgt Manos says it took an entire day just to catalog the merchandise. The department is already in the process of trying to get the stolen property back to its rightful owners.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

A Westfield man accused of killing Springfield mob boss al Bruno is now suing an FBI agent. Frankie Roche says the agent shot him in the back while trying to arrest him back in 2003.

Roche's lawsuit claims he was handcuffed, held face down on the floor, and not resisting arrest when the gun was fired. The FBI later ruled the shooting accidental. Frankie Roche is seeking at least \$75,000 in damages. Roche is currently awaiting trial on charges he gunned down Bruno outside a social club in Springfield's south end in 2003.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

Portugal's public prosecutor has handed the case against the parents of Madeleine McCann to a criminal judge. A judge's approval is necessary to advance the investigation, possibly granting police the chance to conduct new searches or interviews. Michelle Kosinski has more from London. A judge in Portugal now has all of the evidence in the growing case against Kate and Gerry McCann, official suspects in the disappearance of their daughter Madeleine from their apartment in Portugal last may. The prosecutor's office got all of the evidence from investigators yesterday but they only had it for a couple of hours before handing it to a judge. Prosecutors aren't saying exactly what they're seeking but the judge has ten days to either comply or deny that request. After that point all the material will go back to prosecutors for them to decide whether or not charges will be filed against the McCann's. There are also reports in the Portuguese press that some of the DNA evidence police say they found in the McCann's rental car, which by the way they rented 25 days after Madeleine disappeared, included hair samples. But that is not confirmed by police. The McCann's are home in central England with their twins, they say trying to lead as normal a life as possible. They say they are 100-percent innocent, and they fear they are being Framed.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

Residents in the Franklin county town of Leyden are mourning the death of a local man killed while serving in Iraq. 23 year old Ari Brown, weeks was killed last weekend in a truck accident in Iraq. A family friend said a funeral service will be held Saturday in Virginia.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

Westfield police recover items worth more than \$100,000 they believe were stolen from town halls and homes in three states. Authorities say a tip led them to the home of David heck. He and Justin Douglas of Springfield were arrested and charged Friday with break-ins in New Hampshire. Authorities have not charged the men, but there were also many break-ins in Massachusetts. Burglaries were reported in seven different cities and towns.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

Family and friends of a teen killed in Monday night's head on collision on Boston Road gathered for a candlelight vigil last night. .18 year old Russell Potter junior of Springfield was killed Monday night when his truck was hit by on oncoming SUV that crossed the center line. The cause of the crash is under investigation. Potter had just graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School this past June.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

An autopsy will be performed today on a body found along the Connecticut River in Deerfield. A fisherman found the body around 6:30 Monday night. Police are continuing to investigate who the victim is and whether he was the victim of foul play.

News **9/12/07** **12pm** **:30**

Testimony continues today at a hearing for the Springfield police officer accused of assaulting and threatening his wife and child. According to police, Thomas Michel threatened to kill his family and himself if anyone tried to enter his house in Hamden. He eventually surrendered. Michel's wife, Judith Michel, is scheduled to testify when the hearing resumes later today.

News **9/13/07** **12pm** **:30**

More local college students are being sued for alleged illegal music downloading. The recording industry association says it's proceeding with five lawsuits against students at UMASS Amherst. The association says the five were offered settlements, but refused. We asked students at American international college in Springfield if such lawsuits will put an end to the practice. The recording industry claims music downloading is robbing record labels of millions in revenue every year.

News **9/13/07** **12pm** **:30**

The Erving Paper Mill is paying up for violating the bay state's air quality regulations. The mill is facing a nearly 6-thousand dollar fine. The department of environmental protection says testing this year at Erving paper mills found the facility's smokestack wasn't in compliance with permitted emission limits. The plant was back in compliance about a month later. Michael Gorski, director of the Dep's western regional office in Springfield, says they'll continue monitoring the emissions from the mill's stacks.

News **9/13/07** **5pm** **:30**

A Connecticut woman is charged with driving her roommate's car through the front door of a police station. Police in East Windsor say Lillian Dunn crashed her roommate's car through the front door of their station Wednesday morning. She told them she was upset because officers wouldn't put her on welfare and how they handled a missing person's case. Dunn, who has a suspended license, was arrested about a block away from the police station.

News **9/13/07** **5pm** **:30**

A police manhunt is underway in South Florida for a suspect who shot and killed a police officer and injured three others Miami Dade county police say Shawn Sherwin Labeet had been stopped for driving erratically, when he shot the officers with a high-powered weapon, then fled in this car. No word yet on the conditions of the three surviving officers.

News **9/13/07** **5pm** **:30**

The leader of a Florida identity theft ring that used credit card numbers stolen from Framingham-based Tjx has been sentenced to five years in prison. The Florida ring is believed to have purchased the stolen Tjx card data from others. Ring leader Irving Escobar who pleaded guilty in march, was also ordered to pay nearly \$600,000 in restitution...five others who were accused of playing lesser roles in a ring have also pleaded guilty in Florida courts.

News **9/13/07** **6pm** **:30**

Eight months after she died, police in Easthampton have charged someone in connection with the death of 15-year old Alexis Garcia. 46-year old Timothy Parent, of 123 Strong Street, is charged with involuntary manslaughter. Police chief Bruce McMahon says parent bought a 1.75 liter of vodka for his daughter. The daughter brought some of the vodka to Alexis Garcia's house after school one Friday in February and that's when things went terribly wrong. Her friend, parent's 15-year old daughter will also be charged in juvenile court for bringing the alcohol to the Garcia house. Timothy parent has pleaded not guilty and will return to court November 15th.

News **9/13/07** **6pm** **:30**

A father from Easthampton is charged in connection with the alcohol-related death of his daughter's teen-age friend. The defendant's daughter could soon face charges as well. A man is charged in connection with a young girl's death and two lives are changed forever. Eight months after 15-year old Alexis Garcia died, police charged her friend's father, 46-year old timothy parent who lives in this house on strong street, with involuntary manslaughter. After a seven-month investigation, police and the district attorney's office concluded that Mr. Parent allegedly bought his daughter a 1.75 liter bottle of vodka. They say, the 15-year old poured some of that vodka into a 20-ounce container and brought it to Alexis Garcia's house after school one Friday in February of this year. The bottle containing 20 shots of alcohol was empty when EMT's arrived. Now her friend will also soon face charges in juvenile court for bringing the vodka to Alexis' house. The case is thought to be the first of its kind in Massachusetts. Police stress that the serious charges are meant to send a message...anyone they believe is buying alcohol for minors will be punished. Alexis Garcia would have been a junior at Easthampton high school this year.

News **9/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

West Springfield police believe they've solved the mystery of the Labor Day weekend desecration of dozens of gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in town. Police have arrested two West Springfield teenagers. Nineteen-year-old Michael Ouimet is charged with injuring or defacing tombstones and a hate crime. A 16-year-old juvenile from West Springfield faces similar charges. The vandalism at the Jewish cemeteries off king's highway began over the Labor Day weekend. Additional damage was discovered over the next few days despite stepped-up police patrols. Authorities say more arrests are expected.

News **9/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

Chicopee police have released several photographs of the suspect in this week's bank robbery. A man in his 30's passed a note saying he had a gun to a teller at the Burnett road Chicopee Savings Bank branch Tuesday afternoon. He got away with an undisclosed amount of cash, driving away in a green Chevrolet Impala. He's a white man, 5'9 to 6 feet tall.

News **9/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

Noxious gas at South Hadley high school sent several people to the hospital and two students now face expulsion and criminal charges in the incident. After hours of investigative work, it was actually a combination of hazmat expertise and tips to the local police department that solved this case. Police now say it was a cloud of mace that was making students and teachers at South Hadley high sick today. When a group of students and teachers began coughing and gasping uncontrollably on Thursday. South Hadley school officials thought there was a chemistry lab spill or problem with the high school's air control system. And South Hadley school tendent Gus Sayer confirmed those rumors late in the afternoon. He says it was an intentionally sprayed cloud of mace in the hallway that was making people sick. Principal smith says that part of the reason the school will seek a severe punishment in this case, is that it wants to set an example that it's important to think before you act in addition to the punishment from shhs, the two teens are expected to face criminal charges for spraying the mace at the school.

News **9/14/07** **5am** **:30**

A man accused of killing one police officer and wounding three others has been shot and killed in south Florida. According to police, the man had opened fire on the officers during a traffic stop yesterday.

News **9/14/07** **5am** **:30**

California has become the first state to enact an outright ban on cell phones and other electronic devices for drivers under 18. Stephanie Stanton has the story. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made California the first state to outlaw the use of cell phones, PDA's and all other electronic devices by teen drivers. The new law will take effect in July of 2008 and will apply to all drivers under 18 years old. In fact, car crashes are the #1 cause of death among people ages 16 to 24. A recent study showed teen drivers were 4 times more likely to

be distracted by cell phones than adults. In Fairport, New York, police said this 17-year old driver may have been text messaging at the time of a deadly crash that killed five teenage girls. In phoenix this 17 year-old was killed after texting while driving. Reaction to the ban among California teens was mixed. Sixteen other states and Washington D.C already have partial cell phone bans in place for teens and other drivers.

News **9/14/07** **6am** **:30**

An off-duty police officer is dead in Pennsylvania after a military-style gatling gun went off at a gun club exhibition. Thirty-six-year-old auxiliary officer Michael Kurty was hit in the head. Police aren't sure yet if he was operating the machine gun but say it appears to have been an accident. The "Minigun" is similar to ones used by the military on a wide variety of aircraft and is rarely seen outside the military.

News **9/14/07** **6am** **:30**

Two people were found mauled to death by pit bulls in a small Michigan town yesterday. An elderly man who had come to check on his property in Iosco Township was found in the yard by his son. Police say the pit bulls were still in the yard when the son arrived, but ran off. Investigators found the dogs had also mauled a 56-year old woman who was jogging near the property. Ten of the dogs have been confiscated...but several others are feared to be running loose.

News **9/14/07** **6am** **:30**

The NFL has fined New England Patriots Coach Bill Belichick and the team a total of \$750,000 for videotaping an opponent's signals. The team has also been told to forfeit draft choices next year. The pats were caught videotaping the New York jets' defensive signals during last Sunday's 38-14 win at the meadowlands. Belichick was fined the NFL maximum of \$500,000 and the patriots were ordered to pay \$250,000. Belichick took full responsibility and apologized.

News **9/14/07** **12pm** **:30**

A possible break in the case of one of the FBI's ten most wanted fugitives...James "Whitey" Bulger may have been spotted overseas. Today the FBI released photographs and a videotape taken in Sicily... That shows a man and woman who resemble the fugitive Boston gangster and his longtime girlfriend. Authorities say they did facial recognition analysis and also questioned the couple's associates....but couldn't determine if the photos showed the fugitives. Now they're asking for help from anyone who visited Sicily in the spring and might have seen Bulger. There is a one million dollar reward for any information leading to his

capture and arrest. The 77-year-old Bulger is the former leader of the notorious winter hill gang and an FBI informant. He's been a fugitive for more than a dozen years.

News **9/14/07** **12pm** **:30**

OJ Simpson is under investigation for an alleged robbery that took place in Las Vegas hotel. Las Vegas metropolitan police questioned OJ Simpson in connection with a robbery investigation here at the palace station hotel and casino. Sources tell us that OJ and several other men barged into a room here at the hotel and took several items from the person inside. We spoke to the man who says he was staying in that room and here's what he had to say. Police say they filed paperwork with the district attorney who will ultimately decide if Simpson will face any charges in this case.

News **9/14/07** **12pm** **:30**

Holyoke police have arrested a man who apparently is a major drug distributor in the area. After weeks of investigation police found 24 year old Luis Zayas of Holyoke...in possession of 170 packs of heroin. A Holyoke police report says Zayas was dealing drugs from his home. Officials also confiscated two baggies of marijuana, a vile of cocaine, a security camera system and nearly \$43,000 dollars in cash. Holyoke police Chief Anthony Scott says a significant drug dealer was removed from our community.

News **9/15/07** **6am** **:30**

Two men are critically injured after a late night, single car accident in Southwick. A life flight was called in to help. Police say the car veered off Fred Jackson road just before eleven last night.

News **9/15/07** **6am** **:30**

A second person listed as one of the state's 10 most wanted deadbeat dads is in custody. Gene Kersell, formerly of Taunton, was arrested Friday by Boston police. The department of revenue says Kerswell owes more than \$50,000 in unpaid child support for two children ages 13 and 7. Officials say he made his last payment in 2005. Earlier in the week, 49-year-old peter Cantin was arrested in New Hampshire on charges he failed to pay child support. Cantin owes just over \$75,000 to two children. Both arrests in the same week lieutenant governor Tim Murray released the state's latest list of fathers wanted for allegedly failing to pay child support.

News **9/15/07** **6am** **:30**

Fugitive mobster whitey Bulger may have been caught on camera in Sicily last April. Here's a look at the pictures the F-B-I released. The photographs and video were taken on the Italian Island that shows a man who resembles the Boston gangster. A woman believes to be his girlfriend was also caught on camera. The FBI says there is certainly a resemblance, but a

facial recognition analysis of the photos and videotape was inconclusive. The 77 year old Bulger is the former leader of the notorious winter hill gang and an FBI informant. He's been on the run for more than 12 years.

News **9/15/07** **6am** **:30**

In West Springfield police have responded to what has been described as a shotgun incident at birch park circle off Amostown Road. Two men were wounded, the extent of those wounds not known at this time. The shots were fired from one car into another vehicle. We repeated two men shot in West Springfield a short time ago.

News **9/15/07** **9am** **:30**

In West Springfield, police are investigating a drive by shooting. An active police presence here at 72 birch park circle as West Springfield police actively investigate this early morning drive by shooting that has left two men with non-life threatening gun shot wounds. Shots rang out while most residents in this neighborhood were asleep around 6:15 this morning. The West Springfield police chief says new the male victims were shot in the abdomen and buttocks when a white car reportedly pulled up in front of number 72, where the men were standing and opened fire, firing off at least 10 rounds. Residents in the neighborhood, owned by the West Springfield housing authority say the victims are teenagers. Police are pouring over evidence on the street, as they have cordoned off an area where shell casings pepper the road. They're interviewing witnesses trying to determine what lead up to the double shooting.

News **9/15/07** **9am** **:30**

Many neighbors tell me they're fed up with the lawlessness in the housing complex and want to move. Back in 2005 a 23 year old man was murdered in his apartment here.

News **9/15/07** **6pm** **:30**

Easthampton police have put an alleged cocaine dealer out of business. State and local police arrested 26 year old Rashad Uq-dah at his 25 Franklin street apartment. They charged him with Posession and intent to distribute cocaine and having a gun without a license. Easthampton police Chief Bruce McMahon says they also arrested 23 year old Nelly Carmona who was living with UQDAH. She's charged with possession of Marijuana. Chief McMahon said detectives also found approximately one thousand dollars in cash.

News **9/16/07** **7am** **:30**

A Quincy police office is suspended for abusing his badge. Our Boston affiliate WHDH is reporting officer Joseph Mcgunigle sent out several citations through the mail to local residents recently. Mcgunigle claimed that dogs were leaving messes in neighbor's yards, and were not cleaning it up. As a result, he sent them \$50 citations. Residents were furious and fired a citizen's complaint against the officer. Mcgunigle was suspended without pay for five days

News **9/16/07** **7am** **:30**

The former head of the Leominster Red Cross is facing a charge that she stole from the charity organization. Leominster district court records show Deanie Harris is facing one count of larceny over \$250. The alleged offenses began after September 2005 and continuing until her abrupt resignation earlier this year. Other allegations include buying a cell phone for her life partner who did not work for the organization and using a Red Cross gasoline card, sometimes three times a day. A lawyer for Harris says the 44-year-old is denying the allegations. An arraignment is scheduled for October 11th.

News **9/16/07** **7am** **:30**

Authorities say fighting between Colombia's most notorious Guerrilla Group and police has left one officer dead and another injured. You're looking at video of Colombian police officers under attack. Colombia is plagued by a 40-year-old civil war fueled by drug trafficking that pits guerrilla groups against government forces and kills more than three-thousand people every year.

News **9/16/07** **9am** **:30**

Springfield police crashed into a brick pillar on Springfield Street just over the Chicopee line. Chicopee police captain John Murawski says Springfield police were chasing the driver in a stolen car, when the driver lost control and hit a guard rail along with the pillar. Springfield police then took the man into custody.

News **9/16/07** **9am** **:30**

Wilbraham police are looking for a man who robbed the Sunoco gas station on Boston Road about three hours ago. Wilbraham police officer Joseph Brewer says a clerk at the gas station located at 2310 Boston road called police saying he was robbed at gun point. The clerk said the masked man claimed he had a gun and took off with 12-hundred dollars. Officer Brewer says the suspect fled on foot behind the building where he jumped in the get away car. The suspect is described at a white stocky male between 5'6"-5'9" wearing a black sky mask and grey hooded sweat shirt.

News **9/16/07** **6pm** **:30**

We have word that last Vegas police have arrested O.J. Simpson. The charges relating to an armed robbery involving sports memorabilia.

News **9/16/07** **6pm** **:30**

State police may have saved at least a few lives overnight by weeding out drunken drivers during a western Massachusetts sobriety checkpoint stop. State police stopped cars by the hundreds on route 9 in Hadley. Before they were finished, police had arrested seven drivers

and charged them with operating under the influence. Lt. William Blatch of the state police said his men issued more than 80 other citations covering a range of other traffic violations. In all more than 850 cars passed through the sobriety checkpoint. The state police traditionally keep the location of these Saturday night checkpoints a secret. They have been focusing on major western Massachusetts roads for sometime.

News **9/16/07** **6pm** **:30**

A Chicopee homeowner can blame a fugitive driving a stolen car for some serious damage to the front of the property... Chicopee police captain John Murawski says that Springfield police were chasing a driver on Newbury street near the city line early this morning. The driver losing control and striking a guard rail and a brick pillar in front of 424 Springfield Street. 22 year old Heriberto Colon was taken into custody. Not only did police charge him with driving a stolen car, but he reportedly carried a fully loaded semi-automatic 40 caliber pistol.

News **9/16/07** **6pm** **:30**

A hold up man helps himself to a sizable amount of money at a Wilbraham service station this morning.....the clerk at the Sunoco station at 23-1o Boston Road telling police that a masked man claiming to have a gun took off with 12 hundred dollars. Patrolman Joseph Brewer say's the clerk describes the holdup man as being white, short and stocky, wearing a grey hooded sweat shirt and a black ski mask. The clerk also telling the cops that the bandit had a getaway car waiting behind the Boston Road service station building.

News **9/16/07** **6pm** **:30**

A homeless man in Boston was sleeping under a truck. He was crushed to death when the truck began moving. Ironically the fatal accident took place just a few feet from a homeless shelter in the cities south end neighborhood. The driver who ran over the homeless man happens to be an employee of the shelter. The associated press reports that police are looking into the truck operator's driving record.

News **9/17/07** **5pm** **:30**

Foul play is not a factor in the death of a man whose body was found on the banks of the river in south Deerfield last week. That's according to the north western district attorneys office. A fisherman discovered the body of 38 year old Scott Sadoski one week ago Monday off river road. The investigation into the death is continuing. Sadoski did not have a known address.

News **9/17/07** **5pm** **:30**

Students are back at UMASS Amherst, but today many were in a courtroom instead of a classroom. Amherst police arrested 78 people this weekend, after receiving over 200

complaint calls. Police say a party at the sigma phi epsilon fraternity off east pleasant street was a particular problem. They say after a noise complaint, it took five officers 30 minutes to clear 400 students from the area. Most of the arrests were for alcohol or narcotics violations. Those arrested will be in court in Hadley through the week.

News **9/17/07** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man will serve three years in federal prison for arranging illegal sex with a girl he met through an online networking site. A Harford federal judge sentenced 27 year old Jason Palmeira, of Springfield for crossing state lines for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct. Palmeira met the girl last year, through a Myspace profile.

News **9/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

West Springfield police say they have a suspect in a double shooting this weekend. West Springfield police captain John Ferrarini says that the suspect knows police are looking for him, and they hope he'll surrender. Captain Ferrarini declined to identify the suspect wanted in the Saturday morning shooting that left two city men wounded on birch park circle. Captain Ferrarini says the shooting involved more than one gun, and was in retaliation for a fight that occurred at a Riverdale Street motel earlier Saturday morning. Both victims suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

News **9/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

Chicopee detectives are investigating an armed robbery at a fuller road package store. Chicopee police captain Steven Muise says that it happened at the white eagle package store at 620 Fuller Road, before ten tonight. A tall white man flashed a silver handgun, and took an undetermined amount of cash from the clerk. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

News **9/18/07** **6am** **:30**

A Waltham man charged with raping a six-year-old boy at a Cape Cod resort is being held on \$500,000 bail. Police allege that 40-year-old John Cox assaulted the boy in a Hyannis hotel swimming pool locker room over a year ago. Cox was arrested last Friday on a child rape charge after the Massachusetts state police crime lab matched forensic evidence at the Hyannis crime scene to his DNA.

News **9/18/07** **6am** **:30**

Opening arguments are set to begin today in the trial of a South Carolina man accused of keeping a teenage girl in a bunker. Vinson Filyaw is charged with ten counts of criminal

sexual conduct, kidnapping, impersonating an officer and possession of an incendiary device. Filyaw reportedly took the girl from a school bus stop by impersonating a police officer. She escaped by sending a text message from the bunker, more than a week after she was abducted.

News **9/18/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A judge has released the university of Florida student tased by police during a John Kerry campus speaking event Monday. The judge ordered Andrew Meyer released on his own recognizance. Police say he became disruptive during a question and answer session with former democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. When he refused to give up the microphone, officers tried to escort Meyer out of the building... But ultimately felt they had to use a stun gun to subdue him. Police have recommended charging Meyer with resisting arrest with violence and third-degree felony. The Florida state attorney's office will decide on the charges.

News **9/19/07** **6am** **:30**

A parole hearing is to be held today for the man convicted in the 2003 Rhode Island nightclub fire that killed 100 people. Daniel Biechele is eligible for parole after serving 16 months of a four-year prison sentence. Last year, he pleaded guilty to 100 counts of involuntary manslaughter for his role in the nightclub fire in West Warwick. The fire ignited when Biechele lit pyrotechnics at the start of a concert for the hair-metal band great white.

News **9/19/07** **11pm** **:30**

A domestic disturbance that started in Springfield led to a high speed chase that ended in a crash in Connecticut tonight. Springfield police captain Joseph Parylak says police responded to a domestic assault call at 283 Fernbank Road. The suspect is forty eight year old Howard Randolph. He fled the scene in a red BMW. Wilbraham police chased the car into East Longmeadow and across the state line into Connecticut. The chase ended when the BMW crashed into a police cruiser in Windsor Connecticut. No word yet of any injuries. Captain Parylak says the suspect who is from Hartford Connecticut, faces a number of charges, including kidnapping and attempted murder.

News **9/19/07** **6am** **:30**

The man accused of starting the nightclub fire in Rhode Island that killed 100 people will be released from jail. The state parole board unanimously decided to grant Daniel Biechele parole. He will be released in March after serving less than half of his four year sentence. Biechele pleaded guilty last year to 100 counts of manslaughter for the 2003 fire in West Warwick. He was working for the rock band great white when he ignited a pyrotechnics display that started the fire. When making their decision, the chairperson of the board said they considered whether Biechele was remorseful, had a risk of reoffending and his plans for life after prison. Biechele has requested to live out of state. He is originally from Florida.

News

9/20/07

5pm

:30

It's happened for years, but this time it might be more than just a harmless prank. Campaign signs of candidates running for mayor of West Springfield have been stolen or vandalized. Campaign signs in the race for mayor of West Springfield are disappearing right before the candidate's eyes. Outcue: own property over 100 signs have been stolen since the start of the campaign....mayor Gibson had 50 signs taken on Saturday night alone and challenger George Kelly said he's had a total of 65 taken. West Springfield police caught several kids they believe are connected to the thefts, but none were arrested. Ludacris/big-E fair set up a captain on duty Thursday morning at the police department told that vandals wrote 'you're a racist' on a campaign sign on the mayor's property sometime Friday night. Now, police believe the incident may be related to the cancellation of the Ludacris concert....the rap star was scheduled to play the final weekend of the big e, but the show was cancelled. Big-E officials sited poor ticket sales, but the cancellation triggered a lot of controversy from fans...many who said low ticket sales was not the reason for the cancellation. Although he wouldn't comment on the vandalism, Mayor Gibson did say he was unnerved by someone on his property. 30 of Mayor Gibson's signs have already been returned, but George Kelly is still waiting for his signs...he has since ordered more. The captain on duty at the West Springfield police department would not give his name, but said he would confirm that 'you're a racist' was written on the sign and that the signs were stolen. He said they didn't want to make a big deal out of the vandalism.

News

9/20/07

5pm

:30

A 39 year old Springfield woman and her two teenage sons are among five people facing charges of crack cocaine distribution. According to Springfield police spokes person Marcia Brown,Wanda Aviles and her sons, 19 year old Antonio Merced and 20 year old Michael J. Merced, were arrested Wednesday night during a raid at suspected drug house at 33 Greenwich street.18 year old Melvin Andino and a 16 year old juvenile were also arrested in that raid. Police seized 10 bags of crack cocaine and other drug related items. According to brown the house is also within one thousand feet of the Gerena Elementary School.

News

9/20/07

6pm

:30

A Northampton man has been indicted in a hit-and-run accident that claimed the life of a bicyclist in Norton. 39 year old timothy Corbin was indicted on charges of manslaughter, felony vehicular homicide and leaving the scene of an accident. He'll be arraigned later. Bristol county district attorney Sam Sutter's office says Corbin also faces his sixth drunken driving offense. 49 year-old Bryan Nadeau was riding his bike in Norton on July 19th when he was struck and killed. Corbin remains held on \$500,000 bail.

News

9/20/07

6pm

:30

The brother of a convicted child predator is being held without bail tonight, facing witness intimidation and other charges. 42-year-old West Springfield resident Michael Houlihan

appeared in Springfield district court today. Houlihan pleaded "not guilty to charges of accosting a person of the opposite sex, intimidating a witness and assault with a dangerous weapon. West Springfield police arrested Houlihan on a warrant on Agawam Avenue last night. He was ordered held without bail pending the completion of his bail hearing on Friday.

News **9/20/07** **6pm** **:30**

This is video of his brother, 43 year old James Houlihan. A former Springfield grade school teacher, James Houlihan was sentenced to two years in prison earlier this month. He was convicted of sexually assaulting a student at Bowles Elementary School where he worked.

News **9/21/07** **5am** **:30**

In downtown Springfield, an argument turned into one of the people pulling a gun and firing it into the air. It happened just after two o'clock. Police responded quickly to the area. Police are still investigating

News **9/21/07** **5am** **:30**

A family member of a murder victim attacked a suspected killer in court in Washington State. The uncle of a woman who was killed by her husband was addressing the court when he lunged toward the man. Several court deputies were able to stop the man before things got out of control. The suspect was sentenced to 28 years in prison for killing his wife on New Year's Day in their home while their two children slept.

News **9/21/07** **5am** **:30**

An Oklahoma man is facing charges for attacking his ex-wife and her new boyfriend. During the struggle, tom ledger wood allegedly bit off and swallowed body parts from both of his victims. A warning here, some of this video may be disturbing. Ernie Paulson has the story. Kristy and Larry Nuckols got married on Monday. Kristy says the two of them were chased down a dirt road and their car got stuck. That's when she says her ex-husband Tom Ledger Wood and some friends confronted them. Larry says they started fighting and were rolling around inside the car, when Tom began biting him. Larry lost half of his left ear the top of his right one and thought he was going to also lose his life. That's when Kristy says she jumped in to try to save Larry. Kristy says they eventually got her ex-husband to calm down. 35-year-old tom ledger wood now sits in the Seminole county jail. Charged with five felony counts and could spend close to fifty years behind bars.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Students who've been downloading music illegally better watch out. 83 students at several colleges and universities in Massachusetts are being asked to pay 3-thousand dollars each or face lawsuits from the recording industry association of America. The group has identified

the unique online address for each computer allegedly used and asked university officials to identify those involved.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Vermont police arrested a family Sunday who they believe are responsible for a string of crimes. A security camera caught Paul and Michelle McElaney leaving a store in Burlington Sunday. Police say they're suspects in thefts and frauds across New England. And officers have nabbed their son, Sebastian, too.

He was in court yesterday, waiving extradition to New Mexico to face embezzlement charges there. The three are described as nomads, and investigators say there could also be victims in Florida. Police say the McElaneys were flagged when they tried to use a stolen credit card at that store Sunday.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Rapper Snoop Dog has pleaded guilty to a felony weapons charge for an incident at John Wayne airport last year. It's the second time this year the rapper whose real name is Calvin Broadus junior. This video is from his court date in April on separate gun and drug charges. Yesterday, Snoop Dogg pleaded guilty to felony possession of a dangerous weapon for having a collapsible baton on a plane.

News **9/21/07** **12pm** **:30**

A sophomore at mit has been arrested at Logan international airport in Boston,after allegedly walking into the airport with a fake bomb strapped to her chest. Officials say 19 year old star Simpson.... Had a computer circuit board, wiring and putty that later turned out to be play-doh. They say she was wearing it, in plain view, over a black hooded sweatshirt. Troopers were notified, and tracked her down outside a terminal, where she was arrested at gunpoint. That's when they determined that the device was a fake.

News **9/21/07** **12pm** **:30**

Simpson will be arraigned in east Boston district court later today on charges of disturbing the peace and possessing a hoax device.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

A Springfield home was under surveillance for drug activity. Police showed up at 132 Marion Street around 10 last night. Officers tried to open the door but two men inside were holding it shut, when two officers finally made it in. Two men allegedly started to attack them. The other officers finally broke in and a struggle ensued before the men were taken into custody. Police also confiscated a substantial amount of heroin. Marco Santos, Carlos Quinones-Guevers and Mariaangli biez are being held for trafficking drugs, violation in a school zone, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

Police are still searching for a gunman who shot two 17 year-old students At Delaware state university. As Michelle Franzen reports the university used lessons from the tragic shootings at Virginia tech to get the word out a gunman was at large on campus. Delaware state university went into lockdown just before one a-m Friday following the shootings of two freshman students walking across campus. Classes were canceled for the day and students were asked to stay inside dorms or at home while police searched for a suspect and motive. Investigators say it appears the shooting occurred after a group of Students left a cafeteria. The university quickly alerted students, faculty and dorm managers by phone, in person and through website and email notification. Lessons learned from the Virginia tech shootings earlier this year. The shootings rattled the nerves of students. The university has brought in grief counselors and is also allowing upset students to make arrangements to leave campus if they choose.

News **9/21/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Dover police say they're looking at two persons of interest in this morning's shooting at Delaware state university. Officials say those people are both Delaware state university students. However, the gunman who shot a male and female student is still at large. Both victims remain in the hospital. The campus has been on lockdown since the shootings occurred around 12:45 this morning.

News **9/21/07** **6pm** **:30**

Last night's drug raid came only hours before a planned meeting on the steps of city hall today addressing the community's concerns about violence in Springfield. Today, the Springfield ten point coalition, area clergy, and concerned residents took to the podium, each talking about ways to make Springfield a safer place. Several of the volunteers today have agreed to dedicate one year to helping combat crime...many are helping prisoners re-enter society.

News **9/22/07** **6am** **:30**

A Springfield police special task force, trying to nab would be robbers was successful overnight. Springfield police captain Peter Dillon says a Springfield man was seen breaking into 1104 Main Street, which is M-P-I wireless overnight. Captain Dillon says 32 year old Martin Valentine took off with several cell phones. After a short foot pursuit, police were able to arrest him.

News **9/22/07** **6am** **:30**

The Mexican navy said yesterday it has launched an operation to destroy hundreds of marijuana fields near the beaches of Acapulco. About 800 military personnel have begun to destroy the fields which are popular tourist stops. The Mexican navy organized a flight over the area and soldiers could be seen destroying the fields. Mexico's president has made

fighting drug production and drug related crime a high priority since taking office in December. He has deployed thousands of troops throughout the country to battle drug cartels.

News **9/22/07** **6pm** **:30**

An early morning double shooting shakes up a West Springfield neighborhood. Two men were wounded in a drive-by shooting, and west side police are searching for suspects. Many residents in town are thinking twice about their safety. The silence was broken on birch park circle in West Springfield, Saturday morning -- residents awakened at 6:15 by the sound of gunfire. Two young men outside number 72 were shot in a drive-by shooting -- hit in the abdomen and buttocks. Home video shows one of the victims being rushed into an ambulance bound for Baystate Medical Center. The West Springfield housing authority neighborhood, heavily populated with young children -- some say they won't go outside anymore. One 9-year-old recalls the living nightmare. As state and local police combed over spent shell casings, and interviewed witnesses, they believe a white car pulled up, the occupants opening fire. In 2005, a 23-year old man was murdered in his apartment. Fortunately with this latest bout of lawlessness, the men are expected to recover.

News **9/22/07** **6pm** **:30**

Easthampton police have put an alleged cocaine dealer out of business. State and local police arrested 26 year old Rashad Uq-Dah at his 25 Franklin street apartment. They charged him with possession and intent to distribute cocaine and having a gun without a license. Easthampton police Chief Bruce McMahon says they also arrested 23 year old Nelly Carmona who was living with Uqdah. She's charged with possession of marijuana. Chief McMahon said detectives also found approximately one thousand dollars in cash..

News **9/24/07** **5am** **:30**

A shooting victim was found inside an apartment at 199 Belmont avenue in Springfield. It happened just before four o'clock. Detectives are searching for a male suspect at this hour. The victim is expected to survive. No word yet on the motive.

News **9/24/07** **5am** **:30**

A Springfield man is shot and killed walking into his home Sunday morning. The victim is being remembered as a loving father and husband. Families of Eric Newkirk, overcome with emotion after learning he was the victim in the early morning murder on Monmouth street. One of his son's consoled by friends. Residents awoke to the sound of shots fired and reacted. As the morning wore on, detectives secured the scene, snapping pictures, dusting for prints. While residents of the hill -McKnight neighborhood watched and stood in shock. Police haven't released a motive for this murder, but have a description of the assailants' getaway vehicle, a dark colored mi-size sedan.

News **9/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Amherst police arrest 30 young people in the downtown area last Saturday night/early Sunday morning for underage drinking. A teenager was caught red handed with cans of beer in his backpack. One Amherst resident objects to police searching backpacks. He doesn't believe police should be targeting these young people. Amherst police Sgt Brian Daly disagrees. Daly says the bike patrols will be doing their jobs throughout the semester, proactively enforcing the drinking laws, educating students with a stern message. One UMASS student says she can appreciate both sides of the issue. The 20 arrests Saturday night and Sunday for underage drinking, brings to 32, the number of teenage arrests made by the bicycle riding police unit. Sgt. Daly says the unit will be enforcing the drinking laws during future weekends in Amherst.

News **9/24/07** **5pm** **:30**

And police say a Springfield man shot this morning while riding a bicycle is listed in stable condition, despite having been shot 3 times. The victim was found inside an apartment at 199 Belmont Avenue, where he'd gone after the shooting. Police spokesperson Marcia brown says the victim is not cooperating with police in solving the shooting.

News **9/24/07** **6pm** **:30**

According to jury commissioner Pamela wood, the tough law has helped discourage people from trying to avoid jury duty.

News **9/24/07** **6pm** **:30**

In Montague, patrolmen were answering a call for a domestic dispute but quickly called narcotics detectives. Police responded to 88 2nd street in Turners falls shortly after 10-last night to see if they could restore the peace there. When officers walked inside the apartment, they noticed a strong smell of marijuana. Police say they soon found several bags all ready to be distributed. Placed under arrest, was 19-year old Rafael Rivera. While conducting a sweep of the apartment, police also found cocaine and .22 caliber ammunition, which he was keeping without a firearm permit. Police say Rivera is no stranger to them. Rivera pleaded not guilty to possession and distribution charges. He is being held without bail until his next court date for probation violations.

News **9/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

Violent crime is on the rise nationwide. The FBI says murder, rape, robbery and other violent offenses are returning to the five-year peak hit in 2002. Last year, there were an estimated 1-point-4 million violent crimes across the country. The justice department blames the increase on gangs, guns, and youth violence.

News **9/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield has logged 16 murders so far this year, that's one more than in all of 2006. The most recent homicide took place on Monmouth Street early Sunday morning. Police continue to search for suspects in that fatal shooting death in Hill-McKnight. 44 year old Erick Newkirk had just come home with a friend at around two Sunday morning, when two men approached him and opened fire. Newkirk was pronounced dead at Baystate medical center an hour later. Springfield had 18 murders in 2005, which was a big jump at the time...the most since 1994. Last year there was a slight reduction with 15 killings. But this year's seen 16 homicides so far.

News **9/25/07** **5am** **:30**

The jury in the trial of polygamist leader Warren Jeff's resumes deliberations this morning. Last night they told the judge that they are close to a verdict, but are deadlocked on one count. Jeff's is accused of rape in the arranged marriage of a 14-year-old girl to her older cousin.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

The state police bomb squad jumps into action after a Greenfield resident digs out a cannon shell from the basement. The resident called police after placing the 20-millimeter shell on Deerfield Street. The shell was corroded...but the primer was intact

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

Officials are trying to figure out who threw a Molotov cocktail that triggered a fire which destroyed an office in Agawam high school. No one was injured after the gas bomb was thrown in through a window early yesterday. Officials from local police, fire the state fire marshal's office are investigating the attack that did not disrupt classes.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

A 16-year-old from Randolph could be arraigned in the next two weeks for the shooting death of another teenager on a busy street. A Norfolk county grand jury indicted Malcolm Carnes yesterday after prosecutors alleged that he chased down and gunned down 17-year-old Ezekiel Cuthbert near a gas station off the busy route 28 in Randolph

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

The fire at Agawam high school yesterday morning was arson and now investigators and school officials are trying to figure out who is responsible. Just after one Monday morning, a makeshift gasoline bomb was thrown through the office window of an assistant principal. The fire gutted the office. Yesterday, the principal started the day with an announcement about the fire and urged students to come forward if they have any information about who might

have started it. The mayor of Agawam says the person responsible will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

News **9/25/07** **12pm** **:30**

An arrest has been made in the shooting of two Delaware State University students. Fellow student Loyer D. Braden was ordered to be held on a 75-thousand secured bond for numerous charges including attempted murder. The 18-year-old is a freshman at D-S-U and is from East Orange, New Jersey. The two victims were shot last Friday, one with serious abdominal wounds. A third student claims Braden fired at him too. Authorities say the shootings followed a fight a few days before in a campus parking lot.

News **9/25/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A realtor who was shot at his Fall River office is hospitalized in fair condition tonight. Anthony Alberto was found at his insurance and real estate agency last night, conscious and bleeding from a head wound. Agency employees said Alberto had gone to the office to meet three clients who wanted to look at a property. No word on any suspects, but Fall River mayor Edward Lambert said police were working to find out what happened and who was responsible.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

The military is investigating the death of a Smith College graduate who died from non-combat injuries in Iraq. 32 year old army captain Roselle Hoffmaster was a surgeon assigned to the 1st brigade combat team from fort drum, New York. The pentagon says Hoffmaster died last Thursday in Kirkuk. No further details about the circumstances of her death were released. A Cleveland native, Hoffmaster earned a degree in biochemistry at smith and graduated from the medical school at case Western Reserve University in 2004.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

In news from our Hampshire county bureau tonight, college students these days are sink a lot of money into textbooks. In Hampshire county bureau, textbook theft is a growing problem, partially due in part to the price of some textbooks. Textbook prices have skyrocketed in recent years and when a new textbook can go for up to \$160, students don't want to be replacing them. But at extremely large schools like UMASS, books can disappear in places like the library, when students leave them on a table.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

Part of the reason for textbook thefts, with the high cost of books, there's internet market where students can buy books at a lower cost. Many of the stolen ones may end up there. Students are urged particularly in libraries to keep an eye on their books.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

A New York City man is ordered held on one million dollars bond in connection with a drive-by shooting that happened in Pittsfield more than two years ago. Marcus Fowlkes was arrested earlier this month in New York. He pleaded not guilty Monday to attempted murder charges. Fowlkes is accused of firing shots at a group of people who were sitting on a porch in July 2005. A 25-year-old mother of three was struck in the back of the head, but survived.

News **9/27/07** **6am** **:30**

Police say they have found a missing Enfield baby at a home in Wilbraham. Police are still looking for the Wilbraham woman, Jessica Chaclos. Police say there is an old warrant for her arrest and they want to question her about yesterday's incident. The Connecticut department of children and families is investigating the incident.

News **9/27/07** **5pm** **:30**

The new FBI., statistics are out on crime, also including figures for crime on college campuses. 22news reporter Lynn Barry says that area colleges generally fall in line with what most colleges see for crime. Generally, most area campuses have low crime rates...with larceny theft and property crimes are the most common crimes on campus. Every year local colleges like Westfield state college report their crime stats to the state police, with the FBI, then compiling annual reports. Last year Westfield state college had only one violent crime reported an aggravated assault case. And the most common crime on campus last year, property damage followed by theft. But many students say even that is rare. A number of students that we talked with say they feel their campus is safe--the acting chief of the Westfield state college police department, Tony Casciano says students can do a lot to maintain safety on campus, by locking doors, keeping watch on their property, and being aware of their surroundings. It's advice that some don't follow initially. The popular items for theft are campuses, laptop computers, cameras, and textbooks. Textbooks is a growing crime on campus all over the country.

News **9/27/07** **5pm** **:30**

A juvenile court judge has found a bay state teenager guilty of plotting a columbine-style massacre at a high school in Marshfield. Tobin Kerns was one of several youths charged in 2004 with allegedly planning to kill students and school officials, much like the deadly attack at columbine high school near Littleton, Colorado, in 1999. The 19-year-old was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and threatening to use deadly weapons. Three other youths are also charged in the plot.

News **9/28/07** **5am** **:30**

Enfield police say they still want to speak with a woman involved a bizarre babysitting case. 14 month old Kannan Garcia was not returned to his mother Wednesday, and police initially asked for the public's help finding the toddler. The child was recovered from the Wilbraham home of a relative of the baby sitter now police want to speak with the Jessica Chaclas of Wilbraham, a friend of the child's mother. The Connecticut department of children and families is investigating the incident.

News **9/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

Chicopee police are asking for your help in finding a level 3 sex offender. A warrant is out for John Murphy Junior. He's wanted for failing to register as a sex offender with both the Chicopee and Springfield district courts. Lieutenant Mark Higgins says level 3 sex offenders are most likely to re-offend and warns that Murphy poses substantial concern to the public. Murphy is often seen at the Stop and Shop on Liberty Street in Springfield.

News **9/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

Federal agents have shut down a warehouse they say manufactured marijuana-laced candies, ice cream and several other foods. Authorities say the raid ends a two year investigation into Oakland, California based tainted, incorporated.

News **9/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

A fire destroyed a portion of a commercial building in Holyoke. Firefighters arrived at the building at the corner of Cabot and Southeast Street around seven last night. Holyoke police Sargeant David O'Connell says the ceiling collapsed while the firefighters were working on the two story building, but no one was injured.

News **9/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

A wanted sex offender was arrested. Chicopee police lieutenant Mark Higgins says that John Murphy was arrested at 56 Montclair Street in Springfield. The class three sex offender now faces several charges, including failing to register as a sex offender.

News **9/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

A Worcester fire, a woman was killed in her apartment, and a dozen firefighters were hurt trying to save her. 47-year-old Christina Lavoie was asleep in her apartment when flames broke out, trapping her on the third floor. Firefighters who were battling one-thousand degree temperatures, tried desperately to rescue her, but it was too late. Lavoie's daughter, Tina who lived on the first floor, held on to memories of her mother this afternoon. The mother of two and grandmother to seven was found by firefighters on the third floor around ten last night. Officials say it was one of the most intense fires they've ever had to battle. So hot, it actually burned through firefighters' gear, giving several of them second degree burns. About a dozen firefighters were rushed to UMASS medical center for injuries ranging from broken bones, burns to dehydration.

Before emergency crews arrived, one resident ran back into the burning building to help his brother's mother-in-law. Twelve residents, many of them Lavoie's family members have been left homeless by the fire. As they plan a funeral, they will also have to find a place to live. Fire investigators spent much of the day on scene, trying to figure out how the fire started on the third floor porch.

News **9/28/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Heightened concerns for Piper Road residents after another serious crash injured three teens in West Springfield. September 19th, three teens were lucky to survive a rollover accident in front of 1072 Piper Road. According to the police report, the driver's car was coming up and around the corner 70 mph on the police report. The car was coming around a sharp curve at 70 mph when he lost control and slammed into a tree. Cars going into school zone the mayor ordered radars on the road one month ago and there were plans to add signs to the school zone and cut back tree branches to improve visibility, but nothing's been done yet.

News **9/28/07** **11pm** **:30**

Drug maker Bristol-Myers Squibb and a former subsidiary have agreed to pay more than \$515 million dollars to settle federal and state investigations into their marketing and pricing practices. Government investigators alleged that from 2000 to 2003, Bristol-Myers Squibb paid illegal consulting fees to induce doctors and other health care providers to buy the company's drugs. Investigators also claimed that from 2002 to 2005, the New York-based company promoted the sale some drugs for uses they had not been approved for.

News **9/28/07** **11pm** **:30**

A teenager suspected of toppling dozens of gravestones at Jewish cemeteries in West Springfield has been released on personal recognizance. A Hampden county superior court judge ordered nineteen-year-old Michael Ouimet released into the custody of his father with electronic monitoring. Ouimet was ordered held on \$1 million bail in district court.

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

A child who was captured on a homemade videotape being sexually assaulted - has been found safe with her family in Las Vegas. Authorities now say the tape was made four years ago and they have a good idea who their suspect is. For days, we've only known her through her haunting eyes. Her leopard prints children's lingerie. Now, sheriff's investigators in Nye County, Nevada say they've identified this little girl who's seen being sexually assaulted in a home-made sex tape. Detectives say the girl, who was three at the time of the assault, is now seven years old. When they finally tracked her down in Las Vegas Friday, she was with her family, who hadn't realized what had happened to their daughter. Now, investigators want to question this man: 37-year old Chester Arthur Stiles of Las Vegas, who they believe is the man in the video assaulting the girl. Detectives say he was a friend of the girl's family. Now,

he's nowhere to be found. The sex tape was turned into the sheriff's department earlier this month by a man who's also now under arrest. When investigators couldn't identify the girl, they turned to the public for help. They say it was the public's tips that helped them find her and now they hope the same effort will lead them to Chester Arthur Stiles.

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

A fight broke out between rival gangs yesterday in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the brawl is caught on tape. The two teens began fighting when at least another two dozen teens joined in the fight, kicking and punching the teen on the ground. Friends of the injured teen are able to get him into a waiting van, when the rival gang started to throw rocks at the vehicle, breaking a side window. Authorities are investigating the attack...and no arrests have been made yet.

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

A top leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq has been killed by a U-S air strike according to the military. Video released by the department of defense shows a safe house on the outskirts of Baghdad being destroyed. The U-S military said Abu Usama Al-Tunisi was killed in the strike. He was believed to be a high ranking member of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and responsible for bringing fighters into Iraq. The U-S military said this was a major blow to the terror organization's operations and future.

News **9/29/07** **11pm** **:30**

In eastern Massachusetts, a Revere police officer is in critical condition after an early morning shooting behind Revere high school. The officer is Dan Talbot neighbors said they heard police racing to the scene at about 2 a.m. Police and prosecutors did not immediately release any information.

News **9/30/07** **7am** **:30**

Several people are lucky to be alive this morning after their car crashes into a telephone pole and bursts into flames... West Springfield police Sgt. Robert Duffy says a car blew a stop sign at the intersection of summit and second streets, colliding with another vehicle. Around 11 o'clock last night. The car that blew the stop sign, Spun out of control, Hitting a telephone pole.

News **9/30/07** **7am** **:30**

Firefighters were back on the scene yesterday of that blaze that destroyed a nearly completed retirement community in East Longmeadow. Investigators were inside the structure of the building where that massive fire swept thru the 130-unit complex early Thursday, searching for clues as to what touched off the blaze. Trooper Mike Mazza of the

state fire Marshall's office says it is early in the investigation and they don't want to jump to conclusions. But he says they do have an idea as to why it spread so fast.

News

9/30/07

6pm

:30

UMASS police are investigating a campus crime overnight that resulted in a student athlete being stabbed. Now, they're searching for the person responsible for the attack. 18-year-old Johnny Evans, a linebacker for the minutemen tried but couldn't defend himself, and ended up stabbed and sidelined in the hospital. Campus spokesman Ed Blaguszewski says everyone had just come out of a school-sanctioned dance. Minute's later UMASS police unleashed their crime fighting canines, search for a weapon and suspect. Evans, a North Carolina native, is expected to recover from lacerations to the buttocks. The UMASS Amherst campus stabbing incident coincides with the Delaware State University decision to expel the student who shot and wounded two school mates earlier this month. A Delaware state spokesman says they have a zero-tolerance policy. That bringing a gun on campus results in automatic expulsion. But there's no guarantee that a UMASS student would be expelled for toting a gun on the Amherst campus. UMASS spokesman Ed Blaguszewski says, "UMASS police would surely arrest such a person. Since state law prohibits carrying a gun on school grounds". But the dean of students would have to decide if that person would be expelled or just suspended.

Blaguszewski says so far, no one has ever arrested for carrying a gun onto the UMASS campus. But given the climate of the times, he wouldn't be surprised if the punishment happened to be severe.

News

9/30/07

11pm

:30

A revere police officer who was seriously wounded in an Saturday morning shooting has died. Authorities say Officer Dan Talbot suffered a single gunshot wound to the head shortly before 2 a.m. Saturday in a parking lot behind revere high school and was taken to a Boston hospital. Suffolk district attorney Dan Conley says the 30-year-old Talbot, a five-year veteran of the force, worked in the gang unit. There were no immediate arrests. According to the statement Rivera filed with police bureau of youth and family services, Rivera was feeding Janyia when she started to choke. Rivera stated that he patted her on the back until she appeared fine...put her back down and then two minutes later she was gasping air. He pleads not guilty to a charge of murder. In terms of a criminal record Rivera has no appeared in Springfield district court.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/12/07 12pm :30

John Lombardi says he's leaving as UMass Chancellor because he doesn't like planned changes at the flagship Amherst school. Lombardi is expected to be approved as the next president of the Louisiana State University system next week. UMass announced in May that Lombardi would be stepping down as chancellor at the end of the coming school year. President Jack Wilson and some trustees are proposing to streamline the five-campus system.

News 07/19/07 5pm :30

At least ten Massachusetts schools will soon be extending their school day, making it at least an hour and a half longer. This includes schools in Greenfield, Chicopee, Boston, Cambridge, Fitchburg, Malden, and Worcester. This more than doubles the number of Massachusetts schools that have lengthened their school days. Supporters for this say the expanded school day gives more time for children to learn the basics, like math, reading, and science. They also say the added will benefit teachers, giving them more time to collaborate and plan. The state is giving the school \$13 million for this program.

News 07/19/07 5pm :30

A local college is helping its students graduate debt free. Amherst College is replacing student loans in its financial aid packages with scholarships in an effort to allow all students to graduate without a mountain of debt. The prestigious liberal arts school announced today that the new program will start in the 2008-2009 academic year. A school spokeswoman says Amherst is just the third college in the nation to make the move, joining Princeton and Davidson. Without any form of assistance, it costs nearly \$50,000 a year to attend Amherst College.

News 07/20/07 5am :30

A new study sheds light on drug and alcohol use among Holyoke teens. The report helps the city address risky behavior. The Holyoke Youth Task Force and the city's public schools surveyed more than 1,000 students, grades six and higher. It's an effort to analyze and understand the risky behaviors of teens. More than half of those surveyed reported a family history of anti-social behavior. Also, a majority of respondents did not perceive alcohol or drug use as particularly harmful. The group behind the study says the teens' environment may be to blame. But there's also good news. In the study, many students reported a higher than average connection to schools, noting that educators recognize and reward their efforts.

They also reported less use of cigarettes than other students in the state and nationwide. Holyoke schools and local organizations will use the results of this survey to develop programs that will tackle drug and alcohol use among teens.

News **07/20/07** **5pm** **:30**

A Springfield area college has established a satellite campus half a world away. American International College has opened a teaching facility in Cairo, Egypt. The Cairo class began this month with 24 students, a master's program in international education. AIC is planning to send some of its students to Cairo next year. And they're talking about satellite programs in Amsterdam, Russia, and Brazil.

News **07/25/07** **12pm** **:30**

A new study finds elementary school students are spending a disproportionate amount of time on math and reading when compared to other subjects. The report by the "Center on Education Policy" says schools are spending more time on math and reading in response to the "No Child Left Behind" Act. The law sets standards for test scores in those subjects and sanctions schools that miss the mark. As a result, other subjects like science and social studies are getting less attention.

News **08/01/08** **6pm** **:30**

Some 71 Springfield students celebrate the completion of a special summer program at American International College. The Rising 9th Grader Program is a free, five-week course in academics and career development. Students also participate in hands-on learning activities aimed at preparing them for high school.

News **08/07/07** **5am** **:30**

Governor Patrick appoints an 18 member panel to draw up blueprints for a 10 year education plan. The governor is calling for longer school days, strengthening curriculum requirements in Math and English, and launching new teacher training programs. He also envisions free education for every Massachusetts resident from age three through community college.

News **08/09/07** **6am** **:30**

Results from a test that measured economics literacy among a sampling of high school seniors show room for improvement, but they're not altogether discouraging. The test found 42% of seniors are proficient in economics. One out of 10 students taking the test could analyze the impact of the unemployment rate on the economy. Three out of five could identify factors that drive up the national debt.

News **08/10/07** **5am** **:30**

Should students at risk of dropping out be paid cold hard cash to stay in school? One pilot program is underway in Arizona. High school students believed to be at risk of dropping out

are being paid \$25 a week to stay in school. High school graduation is the goal of many entering school as freshman, but in Springfield, too few will ever receive their diplomas. Before graduating, as many as 40% of Springfield High School students drop out of school. Now schools in Arizona are paying lower income students to stay in school. Those at risk of dropping out receive \$25 a week if they keep their grades up and stay out of trouble.

News **8/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

Dozens of teen-age parents celebrated a big accomplishment in Holyoke today. 79 teen-age mothers completed an eight- week seminar on responsible parenting. The Massachusetts Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children sponsors the program. Teen moms and dads received their parenting program diplomas at their graduation ceremonies today. In their effort to become better parents, they learned everything from potty training to crisis management.

News **8/25/07** **6am** **:30**

The University of Massachusetts and the Town of Amherst have a deal where the University will reimburse Amherst for the costs of providing fire protection and ambulance services to the campus. In return, Amherst has agreed to provide treated wastewater to the new UMASS power plant at no charge. Amherst town manager Laurence Shaffer says the agreement is the first of its kind in the state.

News **8/28/07** **6pm** **:30**

State Education Commissioner David Driscoll urges school districts to proceed slowly when making changes to desegregation policies. In June, the Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 that using race as a factor in deciding which schools students attend violates the constitution's guarantee of equal protection. Springfield Schools Superintendent Joseph Burke says he asked city and state lawyers for guidance on Springfield's school system policies. 22 Massachusetts districts have state-approved desegregation plans.

News **8/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

Test scores are on the rise at an Arizona high school, and education officials credit some high tech help. Two years ago, the high school went textbook free and turned to laptops. The entirely wireless school has received national attention, becoming a model for schools everywhere. Sandy Rathbun has the story.

News **8/29/07** **5pm** **:30**

The first day of school can be terrifying for high school students worrying if they will fit in. On this first day of school at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, freshmen were coming to grips with the critical issue of fitting in. Now, these Minnechaug seniors have learned through experience what it took to fit in during their high school years. Hampden-Wilbraham was one of several western Massachusetts school districts that began their school year before the Labor Day weekend.

News

8/29/07

5:30pm

:30

Are children taking the proper steps to get into their dream college? A so-called "preparation gap" exists between whites and minority students; with more black and Latinos in Massachusetts taking the SAT and advanced placement exams this year, some view this as a move towards closing the disparity between white and minority students. Yet, reports released from the state department of education show the average sat scores for urban schools were significantly lower statewide. Some say public schools tend to drill the importance of MCAS testing and prep, which allows the student to advance in grade level, while putting less emphasis on the PSAT and SAT, which positions them for college. The data released on Tuesday found that when students took the PSAT in their sophomore year or earlier their score was higher on the SAT.

News

8/30/07

6pm

:30

It's been nearly five months since the Virginia Tech massacre and local college campuses are exploring ways to identify troubled students before it's too late. A new report says Virginia Tech could have taken steps that would have saved some of the 32 people killed when a student went on a shooting spree on campus last April. The report says the shooter could have been identified as a threat earlier. Since the tragedy, many schools around the country, like Springfield College, have looked for warning signs exhibited by students who may be at risk. It's illegal for colleges to publically expose mental health issues of students unless they appear to be a threat to themselves or others. Dormitory leaders urge residents and parents to keep an eye on troubled students. Paying closer attention to these subtle signs could be what potentially saves many lives.

News

8/30/07

6pm

:30

Students in Holyoke may soon feel the effects of a budget crunch. Holyoke school officials are facing a new school year. While trying to overcome a budget shortfall. Holyoke school superintendent Eduardo B. Caballo says that school officials have placed a freeze on spending for supplies and almost all hiring. Some Holyoke students are concerned that the spending cuts will affect the quality of their education. Statement from Eduardo B Caballo, Superintendent of Holyoke Schools says the town school budget must be balanced and we need to find ways to make appropriate cuts. The Holyoke School system is facing a deficit of an estimated \$2 million in its \$73.6 million budget for this school year.

News

8/31/07

6am

:30

The first few days of school for young children can be emotional and stressful as they get used to a new environment and try to make friends. But a new study suggests some children worry a long time before they actually enter a classroom. Researchers in the United Kingdom wanted to study the stress levels of children beginning kindergarten by measuring the amount of cortisol, the stress hormone, through saliva samples. They were surprised to find cortisol levels were already high, three to six months, before school started. Researchers are not

sure why children show stress so far in advance, but believe a parent's anxiety can be felt by the child.

News **9/4/07** **5am** **:30**

Students at UMASS continued to move into the dorms yesterday. Many students started moving in last Thursday, but over a third of the students arrived on Sunday. The rest came yesterday afternoon. With classes starting today, some students were eager to get back into the swing of things. As a welcome back effort, student leaders called "minute movers" helped assist parents and their children move their belongings into dorm rooms. This semester nearly 12,000 students will live in UMass residential halls.

News **9/4/07** **6am** **:30**

The Greenfield School system is saving money by busing home high school students in the evening. Donna Suchanek, special education transportation coordinator, says between 30 and 40 students will be bused home at night following extracurricular activities. In prior years, the school paid a bus company to bring those students home.

News **9/4/07** **6am** **:30**

Today, we will get a better idea of how this year's college bound high school seniors did on the SAT's. The College Board releases numbers in its 2007 college bound seniors report. Those numbers cover SAT averages, key demographics, college attendance patterns and preliminary reports on a new College Board survey on writing.

News **9/4/07** **6am** **:30**

On this day in 1957, Arkansas troops prevented a school's desegregation. Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus called the National Guard to prevent nine African American students from entering Central High School in Little Rock. An angry crowd also influenced the frightened African American teenagers to leave shortly after arriving. Faubus took the action in violation of a federal court order to integrate the school.

News **9/4/07** **5pm** **:30**

New research suggests there are **new** ways to help kids suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder **other** than medication. The study focused on preschoolers with ADHD researchers found that stressing consistent rules and routines and giving praise for good behavior instead of punishment pays off. In fact, these actions helped reduce aggression and other behavioral issues. Also, learning improved by about 30%. A local child psychiatrist says still many doctors opt for medication because it produces faster results. An estimated 3-5% of children are thought to have ADHD.

News **9/4/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Springfield public school students ventured back into the classrooms today, but many youngsters didn't get a ride on one of those big yellow buses. In an effort for the city to save money, Springfield public schools are cutting back school buses. But cutting cost comes at a price. Springfield Public School transportation front man John Maloney says the response from parents has ***not*** been welcoming. Safety is parents major concern. Maloney says additional security and more crossing guards will man the streets, but traffic jams around schools prove to be a major problem.

News **9/4/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

College students are getting a taste of the real world as universities are dealing with rising costs. Students are finding fees added to their bills that they didn't expect. Administrators say that they're adding fees because state support isn't keeping up with the price of doing business, and legislatures aren't raising tuition. As for private schools, they have fees too, but they're a tiny part of the bill, with tuition being much higher.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

The UMass finance board approved a five year, \$2.9 billion dollar capital plan for the university's five campuses. The amount is so high because Governor Patrick's administration has increased funding to the public university system. The money will be used to repair and renovate the schools, and for new student housing and academic and research facilities. The universities full board of trustees will vote on the five year capital plan at its September 9th meeting.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

Teachers in two western Massachusetts communities agree to new contracts just in time for the new school year. In Northampton, teachers have approved a three year deal that gives them annual 3% raises. In Agawam, teachers also approved a three year deal that gives them pay hikes each year, including a 4% raise in the second year.

News **9/6/07** **6pm** **:30**

The first days of school, typically brings jitters to students. But this year in Greenfield, parents are feeling uneasy as well. Changes in the school district are cause for concern. When an elementary school closed last year, it caused students to be shuffled around and 5th graders to move to the middle school. That has raised some concerns for parents that the principal hopes to ease. Greenfield middle school took on scores of new students when the doors opened Tuesday. In fact, they took in all the 5th grade students in town to make GMS 5-8. A lot of parents were worried their young students would be interacting with eighth graders and for those living 1 ½ miles from school, would have to walk to school, sometimes in the dark. Principal Chris Collins says he is working with parents individually to make sure the transition is a smooth one, but concerns persist. Principal Collins says that 5th and 6th graders stay on their own floors, and are escorted elsewhere in the building. He urges any parent to call him to discuss additional problems.

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

School lunch menus aren't what they used to be. As the new school year gets underway, students are eating a lot healthier these days. French fries are popular with teens at lunch hour but these fries are baked not fried, an effort to cut the fat. 95% of the food served in the Chicopee High School cafeteria is baked and by January it will be 100%. Even the potato chips sold are baked; it's part of the effort to get students eating healthy. Breads used are either multi-grain or whole wheat. All drinks served during lunch are 100% juice, water, or vitamin water. And even though things like soft drinks have disappeared from the menu, students generally say they like what's available.

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

Last night the Central High School auditorium turned into a who's who of service providers and experts on substance abuse. Former Massachusetts governor and northeastern professor Michael Dukakis was in Springfield last night. He took part in this forum on substance abuse and public policy at central high. The goal of the networking event was to brainstorm some new, community wide, comprehensive solutions to some serious public health problems--like alcohol and drug abuse.

News **9/7/07** **5am** **:30**

Every year, four billion dollars in state money is spent dealing with the most serious consequences of substance abuse...while only 90 million is spent on prevention and treatment. Service providers hope forums like this will help to balance those numbers out.

News **9/7/07** **6am** **:30**

One Springfield parent claims her son's school has been negligent in handling his disability. Danielle Pappargeris complains school staff directed her seven-year-old son to walk home from the Gerena Magnet School. They live a few blocks away from the school on Arch Street. Pappargeris says her son has social and emotional issues and should ride the mini-bus. Gerena Principal Analida Munera said that Jadan told his teacher he was walking home with an older friend. She also tells us since his mother had picked him up and dropped him off the first two days of school the school wasn't sure whether the student was officially using the mini bus. The principal plans to ask all parents to put in writing how they want their children to get to and from Gerena School.

News **9/8/07** **6am** **:30**

Some college students could see more financial aid coming their way. Congress voted Friday to increase college financial aid by cutting about 20 billion dollars in government subsidies to banks and giving it to the students. That would boost the maximum Pell grant from about 4,300 to 5,400 by 20-12. The bill would also cut interest rates on federally backed student loans to poor and middle class students from 6.8% to 3.4% over the next four years. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

News **9/10/07** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield Police arrested a high school student after school officials said they found a hand gun in his locker. It happened at the High School of Science and Technology. School resource officer Lawrence Petrucci says Sci-Tech School administrators discovered an unloaded 22 caliber pistol during a random search of student lockers. Police arrested 17 year old Tyrus Martin and brought him to Springfield District Court for arraignment on charges of carrying a firearm on school grounds, and carrying a firearm without a license. No ammunition was found. Officer Petrucci says the school routinely conducts random locker searches.

News **9/11/07** **6am** **:30**

If you're looking at a way to cut college expenses, maybe a campus co-op is the answer. Some universities are offering thousands of dollars off the cost of room and board for about five hours worth of work per week. Students have to do household chores around the co-op like cooking, cleaning and scrubbing.

News **9/11/07** **11pm** **:30**

Police are issuing one hundred dollar traffic tickets to some parents dropping off their kids in front of Holyoke High School. East Street traffic's intensified since the start of school. But Holyoke police say it's illegal to block traffic, and if you're causing gridlock, you'll be fined. Police urge parents to instead drop their kids off on side streets, and then let the crossing guards help them get to school safely. Holyoke police Chief Anthony Scott tells 22news if you are obstructing traffic, you'll be ticketed.

News **9/13/07** **5am** **:30**

Results of the MCAS tests in Springfield are in. The overall composite performance index in English language and Math increased throughout the district. Scores were up across all grade levels, and minority students made improvements over last year's scores in English language, Arts and Math, which is an improvement over statewide numbers for minorities.

News **9/13/07** **12pm** **:30**

It was an impressive show and tell at one Alaskan elementary school. Fifth grader Jared post brought in a 10,000 year-old mammoth tooth he found. The ten year-old says he found the tooth half-buried in the woods near his Fairbanks home. He then took it to a local museum that confirmed his find.

News **9/13/07** **6pm** **:30**

A groundbreaking today for a long awaited playground at a Springfield school. Students and staff at the Dryden Memorial School are excited about what the new playground will mean

there. The school has been without a playground for several years since the old one became a safety hazard. The new playground will help the children get even more exercise. Rocky's Hardware donated \$26,000 for the playground, which may be ready in three weeks.

News **9/14/07** **5am** **:30**

A mysterious chemical at South Hadley high school sent several people to the hospital, now two students now face expulsion and criminal charges in the incident. When a group of students and teachers began coughing and gasping uncontrollably on Thursday, South Hadley school officials thought there was a chemistry lab spill or problem with the high school's air control system. It was an intentionally sprayed cloud of mace in the hallway that was making people sick.

News **9/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

Hundreds of high schoolers had the opportunity to talk to representatives of hundreds of colleges in one local location tonight. Western New England College transformed the Alumni Healthful Living Center into a massive college fair. WNEC invited high school juniors and seniors and their parents to learn about more than two hundred colleges, and the programs they offer. The New England Association for College Admission Counseling sponsored tonight's college fair at WNEC.

News **9/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

This past school year was the deadliest on record for fire related deaths on college campuses. The campus fire watch organization says twenty students died in campus related fires last year. Since January 2000, at least 113 people have been killed in campus- related fires, with more than 80 percent of them in off-campus residences. Most of those fatal fires were caused by careless smoking, unattended candles, cooking, and overloaded extension cords and power outlets.

News **9/18/07** **12pm** **:30**

Ten of the best students from Japan's top-ranked fashion school strutted their latest designs at a fashion show in Tokyo recently. The Bunka Fashion Graduate University is known for its strict curriculum and heavy workload. But undaunted, these young Japanese fashion designers-to-be were out to make a statement, especially to the world.

News **9/18/07** **6pm** **:30**

Two local residents are appointed to the University of Massachusetts board of trustees. Governor Deval Patrick named Springfield resident Henry Thomas, the third to the board. Thomas is the President and CEO of the Urban League of Springfield. Springfield resident Ed Collins was also named to the board he is a member of the international brotherhood of electrical workers AFL-CIO and CLC. Thomas and Collins are two of five people named to

the board. All will serve five year terms, and will begin their service at tomorrow's board of trustees meeting at UMASS Lowell.

News **9/18/07** **11pm** **:30**

Volunteers for the Springfield Read Aloud program gathered tonight to learn how to share their love of reading. The program trains community volunteers and brings them into elementary school classrooms to read to the students. The program is celebrating its 22nd year. Program manager Maureen Moriarty tells us they're looking for about 100 more volunteers to sign up.

News **9/18/07** **11pm** **:30**

A groundbreaking's slated for tomorrow at the future site of Holyoke Catholic High School in Chicopee. Diocese and school officials will join Chicopee Mayor Michael Bissonnette at the former home to the Assumption School, next to Elms College. The new Holyoke Catholic High School will have science labs, an in-house library and library privileges at Elms College. The school's scheduled to open next September.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

A well known area school is changing its name. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Springfield held a rededication ceremony this morning to unveil its name. The school, located in the city's south end, will now be called the Mt. Carmel Academy. The school hopes to attract more students. There are currently 128 students enrolled at the school. School officials say there is room for 100 more. They've also started a new program this year. It's called Springfield Unico and it's offering free daycare for students after school until 4:30pm. Students can get help with their homework and get involved in recreational and social activities.

News **9/19/07** **6pm** **:30**

By this time next year, Holyoke Catholic High School students will finally have a permanent school of their own. Work crews have begun renovating the former assumption school in Chicopee. Crews will also construct an adjoining building to accommodate 400 Holyoke Catholic High School students. The former St. Hyacinth seminary in Granby has been the temporary Holyoke Catholic High School for the past six years. Opening day for the first day of class at the new Holyoke Catholic High School in Chicopee is scheduled for next September. The site is just down the road from the Elms College.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

After turmoil over leadership at the University of Massachusetts, a new interim chancellor appeared before the school's faculty today. The occasion was the faculty convocation and annual gathering of the school's teaching staff. And at the end of the procession into Bowker auditorium, new interim chancellor Thomas Cole junior. He says he's listening to students, faculty and staff. Cole says he'll pass on a plan to a new permanent chancellor when one is

chosen. Cole has served as president of Clark Atlanta University and of West Virginia State College.

News **9/21/07** **6pm** **:30**

Two students were shot on a campus in Delaware. It happened at Delaware state university where two students were shot, the campus was put into lockdown all day. The incident reviving memories of this year's earlier shooting at Virginia tech and renewing concerns about safety on campus. The campus of Delaware State University was in lockdown after two students were shot around 1AM near the school's gymnasium. Students would like to see improved communication among the campus community. That was an issue in the Virginia tech shootings in April, where an official report said the campus should have been better notified of the danger.

News **9/22/07** **9am** **:30**

Governor Deval Patrick spent some time last night with local middle and high school students. The meeting room at the Springfield Urban League turned into a public speak out of sorts and for this gubernatorial gathering children and students were the ones who had the floor. Outlining neighborhood concerns and complaints directly to governor Deval Patrick.

News **9/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

The state fire marshals office is investigating a firebombing that gutted the assistant principal's office at Agawam high school. A makeshift gasoline bomb sparked a fire that's been labeled an act of arson. Someone broke in through an office window, detonated a home-made incendiary device, and set the room ablaze. Agawam fire Lt. BJ Calvi says the fire was contained to the assistant principal's office, which was gutted.

News **9/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Fourth- and eighth-graders from the Baystate go to the head of the class on a national math and reading exam. Massachusetts students posted the top scores on three of the assessment tests and were tied for the top marks on the fourth exam. The national results will be reviewed by policymakers and educators to determine progress under the no child left behind law. The goal of that five-year-old law is to get all kids doing math and reading at their proper grade level by 2014.

News **9/26/07** **5am** **:30**

If you don't want your child to be buried in student loan debt, you need to act and the sooner the better. If you want to secure your child's future, financial advisors say you have to change your way of thinking now. The average cost of a college right now is around \$12,000 a year. Forward to the year 2025, you're looking at \$45,000 a year. Personal financial advisor Erwin Gant says the 529 plan is a good option for parents.

Gant says one of the best things about the 529 plan is that it gives parents control. If your first child decides college isn't for them, you can use the money for your second or third child's education. The earlier you start to save the better.

News **9/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Teachers in Longmeadow are wondering when they'll get their pay raise. After spending a year and half negotiating a deal, teachers in Longmeadow agreed to a contract which included a raise. But, school has been in session for almost a month and so far, they haven't seen an increase in their paychecks. The chairman of the Longmeadow school Committee says \$1.7M has been committed to the contract for the teachers.

News **9/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Local community leaders will receive the 2007 William Pynchon award. This year's three recipients are Bay Path College President, Dr. Carol Leary; developer and home builder Dan Roulier, and Allen "Al" Zippin, an advocate for children and children's education. All three will be formally honored during the Pynchon awards banquet at chez Josef in Agawam November 29th. The Pynchon medal has been awarded to recipients since 1915, and is given to those who demonstrate exceptional community service.

News **9/28/07** **5am** **:30**

The new FBI statistics are out on crime, and they include figures for crime on college campuses. Every year local colleges like Westfield state college report their crime stats to the state police, with the FBI then compiling annual reports. Last year Westfield State College had only one violent crime reported: one aggravated assault case. And the most common crime on campus last year, property damage followed by theft. The acting chief of the Westfield State College Police Department, Tony Casciano, says students can do a lot to maintain safety on campus, by locking doors, keeping watch on their property, and being aware of their surroundings. Some of the most popular items for theft on campuses: laptop computers, cameras, and textbooks.

News **9/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

With substantial high school drop-out rates and growing juvenile violence, Springfield faces the challenge of finding positive solutions to youth issues. The new urban youth employment program organized by the Urban League of Springfield, seeks to combat some of the youth problems the city faces. The program will target at risk young people between the ages of 18 to 21 and give them career preparation and resources. Urban league coordinator Andrew Cade says the program will address three basic objectives. Some young people seem to agree that the program will make a positive contribution to the community. To help make this initiative possible, the urban youth employment program received a grant of \$236,000 from the National Urban League and the Department of Labor.

News **9/30/07** **9am** **:30**

It took more than a year but the president of Duke University has finally issued an apology yesterday to the school's lacrosse players and their families. Richard Brodhead also spoke about the lack of support from the university itself during the 2006 rape scandal. During the trial, the team was suspended and their schedule was canceled for the remainder of the 2006 season. The three players accused of raping the stripper were found not guilty in February 2007.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/02/07 5am :30

Progress is slow against a wildfire that has burned about 46 square miles in northeastern Utah. As of Sunday morning, it was only 5% contained and later in the day began spreading into Ashley National Forest. The forest is closed, and hundreds of people are out of their homes.

News 07/02/07 5pm :30

Massive flooding continues to keep people from their homes in southeastern Kansas. The governor of Kansas declared states of emergency for several counties, but in Coffeyville, Kansas, floodwaters are just part of the problem. Officials there are testing a suspicious odor coming from a local oil refinery that was swallowed by flooding from a nearby river. In some of the hardest-hit towns in the region, the National Guard is helping with the mandatory evacuation. More than 40% of the town's residents have already evacuated.

News 07/03/07 6am :30

The rain finally stopped falling in Oklahoma and Kansas, but the stubborn flood waters aren't leaving any time soon. The National Guard was out Monday, evacuating residents of Coffeyville, Kansas who were still stranded in their homes. The situation in Coffeyville was made worse Sunday when thousands of gallons of oils spilled into the flood waters from a refinery. The oil is leaving a thick layer on homes and even animals caught in the water.

News 07/03/07 6am :30

The state department of Environmental Protection fines a railroad company nearly \$75,000 for improperly disposing railroad ties. Several of the incidents involving the Boston and Maine Corporation took place in western Massachusetts. Officials say the largest part of the fine is related to disposal practices in Deerfield where brush fires previously spread to piles of abandoned ties.

News 07/03/07 6am :30

Consumers across the country are looking for organic ways to care for their lawn. Landscapers are beginning to offer "green" ways to handle pests and make their lawns beautiful. About 5% of households use organic lawn products. And that's expected to double by 2009. Organic cost up to 20% more than traditional products and take longer to establish their full effect.

News **07/05/07** **5am** **:30**

Residents are being allowed to return to their homes in Northeastern Utah, thanks to significant progress in taming a wildfire that's been burning since last Friday. The fire has burned more than 42,000 acres or nearly 66 square miles. But it's now more than 50% contained. The fire has killed three people and destroyed 12 homes.

News **07/05/07** **6pm** **:30**

The state is buying up 900 acres of land in the Berkshires. The purchase is the state's largest conservation land acquisition in more than five years. Some of the land is being bought includes a forest that has gone undisturbed since before the first European settlers arrived. The \$5.2 million deal is for Spectacle Pond Farm in Sanisfield. The state says the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which owned one half of the parcel, agreed to sell it at a below-market price.

News **07/09/07** **5am** **:30**

It was a day of frustration for Utah firefighters. They say they don't know when they will get the upper hand on a fast-moving blaze. And that's even with extra fire crews arriving yesterday. The wildfire has already consumed 160,000 acres in central Utah. Authorities have shut down a 100 mile stretch of two major roads in the state.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

Indonesia's Mount Gamkonora volcano has spewed ash and smoke for the past several days and forced residents to flee to safety. A government official said smoke started to emerge from the volcano on Saturday and ash began to appear Monday. Some of the ash was shot more than 13,000 feet into the air. The highest alert level has been put in place around the volcano. An estimated 8,400 people have been evacuated, but there are no reports of injuries. Indonesia has more active volcanoes than any other country in the world.

News **07/10/07** **5am** **:30**

A fire official in South Dakota says at least 30 houses have been destroyed by a wildfire that has killed at least one homeowner who had gone back to try and save his belongings. Fire officials expect to have it fully contained by Thursday. In central Utah, a wildfire has grown to more than 468 square miles. In Nevada, firefighters continue to battle fires that have blackened more than 240 square miles in the northern part of the state.

News **07/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

General Electric will work with Hitachi in an effort to save energy. The two giant companies will join forces to build and sell nuclear reactors around the world to produce electricity. The two say they're focused on nuclear because it has no carbon emissions that contribute to

climate change. The design for the new reactor project is expected to be completed in 2010 and will cost GE up to \$400 million.

News **07/11/07** **5pm** **:30**

Endangered whales are getting some additional protection with new rules scheduled to go into effect by this October. These new rules will help prevent the endangered whales from becoming entangled in fishing gear. A key part of the proposed rules was a switch by lobstermen to use rope that sinks to the ocean floor. Marine gear entanglements and ship strikes are the top human causes of whale deaths. This new initiative comes after environmentalists sued to end what they say has been an inexcusable delay.

News **07/12/07** **6am** **:30**

Heavy rains bring flooding to central Vermont. The water was several feet deep in parts of Barre, washing out roads and flooding homes yesterday. Some streets were under as much as six feet of water when a branch of the Winooski River overflowed its banks. Several dozen people were told to evacuate. There are no reports of injuries.

News **07/12/07** **6am** **:30**

Government and business leaders gather to talk about the climate. A summit on climate change gets underway in Florida. That state's governor, Charlie Crist, hosts the forum, which will feature Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Robert Kennedy, Jr. The summit hopes to bring together leaders of business, academia, science, and the environment to suggest practices for state agencies and future laws.

News **07/13/07** **12pm** **:30**

Health officials in Pittsfield have closed a second Onota Lake beach due to elevated levels of E-coli in the water. The beach is used by a camp for girls. The other beach, at Burbank Park, has been closed for nearly a week due to unsafe E-coli levels. The head of Pittsfield's Board of Health says goose droppings are likely to blame at both beaches.

News **07/16/07** **5am** **:30**

Three people have been killed and 400 injured after an earthquake in the northwest coast of Japan. Older buildings have been reduced to piles of lumber. There were reports of four people killed, but hospital officials say one death was unrelated to the quake. Japanese officials say the quake was magnitude 6.8 and triggered small tsunamis and a fire at a nuclear plant.

News **07/17/07** **11pm** **:30**

There is a growing concern about leaks at the world's largest nuclear plant. A magnitude 6.8 earthquake shook the plant in Kashiwazaki, Japan Monday. Plant officials say barrels

containing 300 gallons of low level nuclear waste spilled with at least some of it ending up in the sea and some dissolving into the air. They're still trying to determine exactly what is in that waste. More than 12,000 people remain in emergency shelters as one official in the area admits damage is worse than anticipated.

News **07/19/07** **5am** **:30**

A tornado touched down on Long Island, New York yesterday morning, causing property damage, power outages, and flight delays. Central Islip, Huntington, Melville, and Brookhaven are among the areas suffering significant damage. Winds reached speeds between 85 and 125 miles per hour, making it a category F1 tornado. The Long Island Power Authority said the twister knocked out electricity to parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties for a time.

News **07/19/07** **11pm** **:30**

Serious storms swept through Connecticut today, prompting reports of at least one tornado in western Connecticut this afternoon. Trees there were stripped of their branches, while other were snapped in two. Fortunately, this was an isolated incident, but the National Weather Service says a suspected tornado was spotted around 3:00. For the most part the storms left the state by early evening, leaving behind only minor damage.

News **07/20/07** **5am** **:30**

In an effort to protect the environment and keep neighborhoods clean, the city of Holyoke is urging residents to recycle. The state lottery granted \$5,000 to the city in support of their recycling effort. This campaign also encourages local businesses to take responsibility for trash at their locations, like lottery litter.

News **07/20/07** **12pm** **:30**

A forecast of hot and dry weather in the west is bad news for firefighters battling fires in ten states. The next seven days doesn't include any precipitation, and it could make controlling the fires difficult. A fire covering 200 square miles in Idaho has forced the evacuation of dozens of families from one town in the state.

News **07/23/07** **6am** **:30**

A wildfire along the Nevada-Idaho state line has grown by an estimated 200 square miles in 24 hours. Officials say it is threatening homes and facilities at an Air Force training range. Two large wildfires combined to create the more than 880 square mile blaze.

News **07/23/07** **6am** **:30**

An afternoon thunderstorm in Flagler Beach, Florida produced a large waterspout. The waterspout turned tornado hit the city's fishing pier, damaging at least two businesses. While

power was knocked out on one block, there were no injuries reported. The National Weather Service classified the tornado as an "EF-0," the lowest grade tornado.

News **07/24/07** **6am** **:30**

22News has received a few viewer emails regarding the color of the Connecticut River. They say the river is turning brown and at times grey, and they're worried the river is now longer safe due to pollutants. At this time of year, it's normal for the river to be brown, due to the heavy rainfall and runoff from the north, particularly in Vermont and parts of the Canadian border making way down to the Pioneer Valley. Eva Tor, of the Department of Environmental Protection, says, "We've had heavy rain fall in the valley as well and what's happening is natural erosion and sediment getting into the water, getting it to become turbid." Two Massachusetts DEP scientists collected samples and found normal amounts of bacteria and sediment that will clear up as the rain slows.

News **07/26/07** **5am** **:30**

A Tsunami warning has been lifted in eastern Indonesia following a powerful earthquake. Authorities say panicked residents fled from swaying homes and hospitals. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of seven and was centered deep beneath the Maluku sea off eastern Indonesia. Damage reports are not yet in. Indonesia is along the so-called ring of fire, the arc of volcanoes and fault lines that rims the Pacific Basin. That makes it prone to earthquakes.

News **07/27/07** **5am** **:30**

Officials are tackling a trash problem that's building in Greenfield. They say illegal dumping is hurting both the environment and taxpayers. Refrigerators, bicycles, tires, and scrap metals all where they should be disposed of at the Greenfield Transfer Station. Marlo Warner, Field Superintendent of the Greenfield DPW, says, "It's large items that are being dumped: couches, mattresses, bulky items, chairs, stuff like that." Town officials are cracking down on illegal dumpers. Pubic works crews keep a close watch, which is why the area is clean, at least for now. But many hazardous items are being thrown near or in the Green River. Greenfield started a pay-per-thrown program at the transfer station in 2005. As prices have increased, so has the litter.

News **07/27/07** **5am** **:30**

A quiet start to the 2007 hurricane season doesn't mean it's expected to be a slow one. It's two months into this year's season and we've only had two named storms, the last one formed on June 1st. Forecasters warn against complacency, saying the most active part of the season starts in August. The National Weather Service is still calling for 13 to 17 named storms this season.

News **08/01/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A group of young people this summer will be on a special mission, helping to improve some of the area's conservation areas. Today, they were working on re-grading the path at the Holyoke Dinosaur tracks off Rt. 5 in Holyoke. The seven teens are part of a Youth Conservation Corps, a partnership between the trustees of the reservations, an environmental group, and the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club.

News **08/02/07** **11pm** **:30**

Senator John Kerry is filing legislation to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to study a chemical degreaser once commonly used in military air bases in western Massachusetts. Kerry says the legislation will review whether federal safety standards surrounding the use of trichloroethylene are sufficient. Kerry says when TCE is found in drinking water it can cause birth defects, sickness, and death. The government is studying the link between exposure to TCE and health problems like birth defects and kidney cancer.

News **08/15/07** **5am** **:30**

Forecasters keep a weather eye on the Gulf of Mexico. Tropical storm Erin could make landfall on the Texas Coast sometime today. The storm formed as a tropical depression Tuesday and intensified into a tropical storm on Wednesday. Texas has already had one of its rainy summers on record, and up to 10 additional inches could fall on parts of the lone star state if Erin makes landfall.

News **08/16/07** **11pm** **:30**

Local recycling efforts are paying big dividends. 78 western Massachusetts communities will share in \$1.5 million for their recycling efforts this year. The cities and towns delivered more than 44,000 tons of recyclables to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. That translates into a savings of \$3.3 million in solid waste disposal fees by recycling newspaper, plastic, glass, and metal containers.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

Massive flooding in the nation's midsection continues to plague residents there. In Findlay, Ohio, the water is beginning; however, the town suffered serious damage as the worst flooding to hit the area in nearly one hundred years swept into town. The coast guard was busy rescuing several people who became trapped by the fast rising water. Across the Midwest more than one thousand families have been driven out of their homes by flooding.

News **8/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

South Korean officials announced today they will resume quarantine inspections of u-s beef imports. Sale of US beef was effectively suspended earlier this month because of concerns about "mad cow" disease after a shipment was found containing a backbone. Only boneless meat from cattle under 30 months old was to be brought into the country. South Korea was

the third largest foreign market for American beef before see foul banned imports in December 2003 after mad cow disease was found in cattle in the US.

News **8/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

The Buenos Aires zoo is giving visitors the unique chance to see how their animals act at night. Many of the zoo's animals are nocturnal, so the best time to see them acting naturally is at night. So visitors are given the chance to see what they do after the zoo's gates are normally closed.

News **8/25/07** **6am** **:30**

Across the Midwest, days of torrential thunderstorms have flooded thousands of homes and left hundreds of thousands without power. At least one possible tornado touched down in Fenton, Michigan causing minor damage. In the Chicago area, thunderstorms brought 70 mile an hour winds that knocked down trees and left hundreds of thousands of utility customers without power. Parts of Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa continued cleanup after earlier flooding. Some areas report as much as 15 inches of rain since Friday.

News **9/1/07** **6am** **:30**

Tropical storm Henrietta dumped heavy rains on the Mexican resort city of Acapulco yesterday. Four inches of rain were dumped on the city. Huge waves also crashed on the coast and forced officials to shut down small fishing and ocean ports along the pacific coast. The storm is expected to reach hurricane strength by Sunday, but not expected to make landfall.

News **9/2/07** **7am** **:30**

Dry weather and lightning is to blame for a fire in the San Bernardino national forest in California. The fire started after 12:30 pm local time burning nearly 1-hundred acres. A local highway has been shut down in both directions while crews fight the flames.

News **9/2/07** **7am** **:30**

A strong thunderstorm caused heavy flooding in parts of California Saturday afternoon. Area firefighters and a trained weather-spotter reported a funnel cloud twenty-one miles north of the town.

News **9/4/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Scorching heat is adding fuel to the fire in California. The high temperatures have been blamed for at least two deaths and thousands of power outages. Brush fires have blackened 5,000 acres in the northern part of the state. Some 1200 firefighters are battling the blaze which broke out yesterday in the Henry Coe State Park. Air tankers, bulldozers, and a helicopter are being used to fight the fire.

News **9/4/07** **6pm** **:30**

Felix came ashore as a category 5 storm. It has since weakened into a category 1 hurricane. More than 14,000 people were evacuated just ahead of the storm. Last month, Hurricane Dean hit Mexico. This is the first time in recorded history that two category 5 storms made landfall in the same season.

News **9/9/07** **9am** **:30**

A water main break is creating havoc for this Franklin county town. The police department is inundated with calls concerning this water main break that stretches all across the central section of town from country club road to Federal Street. The town's Public Works Department is on the job making repairs to the fractured line and expects to have water restored quickly.

News **9/9/07** **11pm** **:30**

Thunderstorms accompanied by high winds tore through parts of Berkshire County earlier tonight---ripping off parts of the roofs at town houses on the campus of the Massachusetts College of liberal arts in North Adams. About 80 students who live in the town house complex area were evacuated to the campus center while the damage was assessed. Burdick says there was also damage to a number of vehicles in that area, and some trees down.

News **9/10/07** **5am** **:30**

Water is back on now, but yesterday morning Greenfield residents tried turning on their faucets but nothing came out. A water main broke in a heavily populated area of the city creating problems for homeowners. Many Greenfield residents woke up Sunday to no running water after a pipe burst earlier in the morning. Greenfield police say 2,000,000 gallons of water submerged parts of town from the water main break.

News **9/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

Planning for repairs to river dikes is underway in Chicopee after money for the project was authorized by Chicopee aldermen. The work on dikes along the Connecticut River is federally mandated. If the mandate is ignored, flood insurance for homeowners in the area of the dikes could triple and the city would not be eligible for federal disaster aid in the event of a flood. The entire construction project will cost about \$3,000,000.

News **9/11/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A majority of the US Senate wants to fix America's crumbling bridges. Just weeks after the collapse of the interstate 35-W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the senate approved one-billion dollars in funds for bridge repair. The amount is part of a 106-billion-dollar transportation and housing measure that the senate is debating. Some senators hope the money will put a dent in the number of bridges that need repair.

News **9/11/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

It's better for the environment, and some say healthier for those who wear it. We're talking about clothing and goods made from organic materials. At "Under the Canopy," they've designed a line that's eco-friendly down to the natural dyes. That's a big deal when you consider that 25% of the world's pesticide use goes to growing conventional cotton, according to the world health organization. "Under the Canopy," in business in Boca for over a decade, is part of the growing trend towards organic fibers. Nationwide, sales of organic cotton have nearly tripled since 2003.

News **9/11/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

The FCC wants to make certain you can use your analog TV on cable after the coming digital switchover. Broadcasters will switch their TV signals to digital in 2009. But the FCC Chief Kevin Martin wants his commissioners to require cable operators to continue carrying analog signals when that switch is made. Viewers who still have analog service, some 32,000,000, would find themselves no longer able to watch. Cable companies say they'll comply with the FCC's wishes, and are running ads to reassure viewers.

News **9/12/07** **5am** **:30**

Natural gas is blamed for causing an explosion that leveled a house and hurt seven people in Easton. Gas crews were connecting the house to a new gas main. Investigators say natural gas seeped inside and was ignited by the pilot light on a hot water tank. Four college students who were sleeping inside the house were hurt, along with two workers and a police officer. All seven are out of the hospital.

News **9/15/07** **6pm** **:30**

Reducing the threat of global warming was the focus of today's 3rd annual energy fair in the town of Amherst and the options are endless for consumers who want to make what are called environmentally sound choices, from reducing the threat of global warming, from recycling tips to special quilts available to reduce the loss of heat in your home. One vender talk about the benefits of energy efficient light bulbs. It also provided an opportunity to learn about green building design alternatives and energy sources such as solar and wind power.

News **9/16/07** **9am** **:30**

Thirty-five hundred people were forced to evacuate their homes as a giant forest fire burns near San Diego, California. The fire broke out shortly after 1:30 in the afternoon Saturday outside of the historic mining camp of Julian. An estimated 500 acres of dry forest burned yesterday, but the winds are so strong officials haven't been able to determine the exact size of the blaze. The fire is traveling northeast toward an area that burned earlier this year. A red flag alert will remain in effect until tonight.

News **9/18/07** **6am** **:30**

A tranquilized black bear fell from a tree in Reno, Nevada. Wildlife officials were called to the scene when the male bear was spotted in a tree. He was coaxed down and tranquilized but then quickly climbed another tree. Afraid he would be hurt in a fall, workers piled boxes at the base of tree. However, the drugs took hold fast and the bear came crashing to the ground scattering workers. The bear was examined, tagged and will be taken to a remote area and released later today. He was unharmed by the fall.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

This is the season when home heating oil costs here in western Massachusetts grow more sensitive to the price of crude oil on the international market. The record \$82 per barrel has an immediate ripple effect on diesel fuel here in greater Springfield.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

Some tense moments at a Chicopee apartment complex after construction workers struck a natural gas line. Around 11:30 this morning firefighters went door to door at the Montcalm heights apartment complex asking residents to evacuate. Residents said they were told a construction crew that was doing work nearby had struck a gas line. Police closed off the intersection of Montcalm and new Ludlow road while crews rushed to fix the leak. No injuries were reported. Resident were allowed to return to their apartments a short time later.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

The city of Northampton is pulling the plug on it's reverse parking experiment. In August the city adopted a new municipal parking policy that mandates reverse parking in a small number of spaces on Main Street. Cars were only allowed to back into those parking places. The goal was to provide a safer parking environment. But city parking manager Bill Letendre says due to an overwhelming negative response, the reverse parking plan is being scrapped. Parking is expected to revert back to normal on Friday after the lines of those parking spots are repainted.

News **9/19/07** **11pm** **:30**

A clean bill of health for the Allen street Dunkin Donuts in Hampden. After a food scare caused management to shut the shop as a precaution Tuesday afternoon. Hampden health board chairman Richard Green says a customer complained of nausea and a headache five minutes after she had coffee there. The incident triggered an immediate health department response.

News **9/20/07** **6pm** **:30**

People from around Hampshire and Franklin counties headed up one of the area's tallest peaks today to witness a rare and spectacular event, the release of young eagles that had never flown free before. Bird rehabilitation specialist Tom Ricardi cares for injured bald eagles like this one, and also raises young eagles through a captive breeding program,

preparing them for release into the wild. After finding their bearings and balance, the birds had no problem finding updrafts off the mountain to keep them aloft. The birds are solo for now, but will hopefully become one of the 25 or so nesting and breeding pairs of eagles known to be living in Massachusetts. The birds will hopefully add to the 25 or so nesting and breeding pairs of eagles known to be living in Massachusetts.

News **9/21/07** **12pm** **:30**

Miners in Madagascar think they have found what may be the biggest emerald in the world. The massive gem weighs in at 1181. It's currently being guarded on France's reunion island off the African coast. The discovery was kept secret until a safe strong enough and large enough to hold it could be built.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

A scare in the south eastern part of the state after a hot air balloon crashes into a power line, leaving more than 100 homes without power. At least seven people were onboard when the balloon went down in Westport this morning. A power company spokesman says it was not clear what caused the crash. According to police, one person sustained a minor burn, but no one was seriously injured. The FAA is investigating the incident.

News **9/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

The United Nations met to discuss methods of reducing global climate change. The largest ever U.N. Meeting on global warming took place on Monday. More than 70 government officials and representatives from over 150 countries attended this one day meeting. The warming debate occurs over what the causes are, and whether human practices are responsible. President Bush did not attending the meeting but other U.S. Political leaders did. Governor Schwarzenegger pledged California's ongoing commitment to environmentally conscious practices. He encouraged other nations to unite in the effort.

News **9/24/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

It's good to exercise but in the wrong environment, it can be a health problem. Now a new study backs that up. Researchers took 20 men who had heart disease and had them ride a stationary bike for two 15 minute periods in an enclosed chamber, while exposed to either diesel exhaust or filtered air. Preventative cardiologist Dr. Peter Libby says a couple of things happened when the men were exposed to diesel exhaust. But experts say this study should not keep people from working out. While this study only included men, experts believe the findings also apply to women.

News **9/24/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Homeowners are likely in for an unwelcome winter surprise once the weather turns chilly. Heating costs, especially for fuel oil, are expected to hit record highs this winter. The average American home will spend \$992 dollars in heating costs, up 10 ½% from last year. Fuel oil

customers can expect a **28** percent increase; double what they paid just four years ago because of higher crude oil prices and low inventories.

News **9/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

A gas leak forced the evacuation of several Agawam apartments and homes this afternoon. It happened on the 100 block of Main Street, not far from town hall and the Agawam middle school. Agawam Fire Chief Stephen Martin says a construction crew installing a gas line for Baystate Gas struck an existing 2" line that caused the leak leading to the evacuations. By mid afternoon residents were allowed to return. Agawam middle school was in the process of being evacuated when instruments measuring air quality determined there was no risk to students at the school.

News **9/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

Mayor Richard Cohen of Agawam had words with members of the Ordinance and Zoning committee last night. Once again the issue at hand; transient parking near six flags. Cohen is interested in amending the new parking ordinance requiring special permits to park cars on private properties. But some residents and councilors think the new law should be scrapped all together, saying it only benefits six flags, and doesn't make citizens any safer. No decision was made about the new parking ordinance at last night's meeting.

News **9/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

Residents of Springfield's sixteen acres neighborhood are cheering the re-opening of the Greenleaf Community Center, that has been closed for nearly four years. The community center has been renovated and a new roof put on. A leaking roof forced the closure of the center in early 2004. The center will be home to after school sports programs for children, offer programs for seniors and provide a spot for meetings.

News **9/28/07** **5pm** **:30**

In a Worcester fire, a woman was killed in her apartment, and a dozen firefighters were hurt trying to save her. 47-year-old Christina Lavoie was asleep in her apartment when flames broke out, trapping her on the third floor. Firefighters, who were battling thousand degree temperatures tried desperately to rescue her, but it was too late. The mother of two and grandmother to seven was found by firefighters on the third floor around ten last night. Officials say it was one of the most intense fires they've ever had to battle. So hot, it actually burned through firefighters' gear, giving several of them second degree burns. About a dozen firefighters were rushed to UMASS Medical Center for injuries ranging from broken bones, burns to dehydration. Twelve residents have been left homeless by the fire.

News **9/28/07** **11pm** **:30**

A new manual's available for anyone interested in learning more about living in a smoke free environment. This report from the asthma regional council outlines the health benefits of

going "smoke free" in your home. It even talks about the possibility of creating apartment blocks and housing complexes dedicated as exclusively "non-smoking". Just quitting smoking or pledging to smoke only outdoors is a step in the right direction.

News **9/28/07** **11pm** **:30**

Pottery Barn Kids is recalling 21,000 "mini zooper doll strollers". The Consumer Product Safety Commission says a child's finger can become caught on the stroller's side hinge or metal clip and this can lead to serious cuts. The pink doll strollers were sold from October 2005 through June of this year at Pottery Barn Kids stores, and through their web site. If you have one of these strollers, you're asked to contact the Pottery Barn Kids' store for a repair kit

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

For the 11th year in a row hundreds of volunteers will clean up the 400 mile long Connecticut River today. Volunteers from Holyoke and Chicopee will be cleaning up their respective sides of the river, while divers from the PV Dive Club will go to the center to bring up sunken debris. A similar project is going on in the Westfield River.

News **9/30/07** **7am** **:30**

Hurricane Lorenzo triggered a mudslide that killed three people in a mountain village. A Mexican state government spokesman said the storm's heavy rains caused a deadly mudslide in a village located in the Sierra Madre mountains. Lorenzo made landfall in the early hours Friday as a category one hurricane and became the third hurricane to hit Mexico in the last few weeks.

News **9/30/07** **7am** **:30**

The Topps meat company has vastly expanded its recall of frozen hamburger patties that may be contaminated with the e. Coli bacteria . The NJ meat company announced they are now recalling nearly 22 million pounds of frozen hamburger patties, which is up from the 332,000 pounds that the company already recalled previously. Three people were confirmed to have been sickened from the meat and the USDA is investigating 22 cases in numerous states.

News **9/30/07** **7am** **:30**

Everyone was out of the car when it caught fire. Four people had to be transported to Baystate medical center.. All with nonlife-threatening injuries. The accident also knocked out power to a large section of route 20 in West Springfield last night...

News **9/30/07** **6pm** **:30**

It was a frightening Saturday night for several Springfield families. They had suddenly been forced out of their homes and into the cold night air as a precaution. Mysteriously a power

surge resulted in their forced evacuation. Springfield police Lt. John Slepchuck says a power surge around 10PM forced several tenants out of their apartments. Firefighters evacuated six to eight units because of the fire hazard.

News **9/30/07** **6pm** **:30**

A majority of Massachusetts residents support Governor Deval Patrick's call for casino gambling, if you take the results of a Boston globe telephone poll as gospel. 53% of the people polled in this latest sentiment sampling, welcome casino gambling. The opposition amounts to 34% and 12% can't make up their minds. This latest casino support survey could still come back and bite the Governor. A full 43% of those surveyed want a casino but not in their own backyard's. It appears that Massachusetts gambling casinos would have to be located far off the beaten path to make them truly accessible to the strongest popular support

News **9/30/07** **6pm** **:30**

The first annual ride to provide proved to be so successful that organizers were quick to predict that they hope to repeat the event every fall from here on out...

News **9/30/07** **11pm** **:30**

The attendance at this year's Big E was the second highest ever for the fair. The fair saw over 1.2 million visitors, and it will be remembered as a banner year, and the weather during the 17 day run of the fair had a lot to do with it. Sunny weather, warmer than usual, and a lack of rain, combined to bring out even bigger crowds. The president of the Big E calls this one of the most successful Big E's ever. 1998 still holds the Big E record for most visitors, with over 1.2 million visitors.

News **10/1/07** **5am** **:30**

Springfield's old first church at court square is one of the 10 most endangered historic resources in Massachusetts. That's according to a statewide historic preservation organization. The designation by the private nonprofit preservation Massachusetts comes as worshippers prepare to disband and close the historic church on January 1st because of dwindling membership and rising expenses.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/03/07 6am :30

Older adults who are losing their sense of smell might be more likely to develop problems with their learning, thinking, and memory abilities. Rush University Medical Center researchers tested more than 500 seniors on familiar smells. Over the course of five years, those who began having major difficulty identifying smells were 50% more likely to develop mild cognitive impairment than those who scored higher on the test.

News 07/04/07 5pm :30

Scientists have found the gene that leaves kids out-of-breath which could help the four million children who suffer from asthma. Researchers were able to zero in on one version of a gene that appears to increase asthma risk by 60 to 70%. Although experts say asthma is caused by both genetic and environmental factors, most treatments only address children's allergic responses. This discovery could someday lead to new treatments that target asthma on a biological level.

News 07/09/07 6am :30

A growing number of children are injured on trampoline each year, 95% of whom were hurt on home trampolines. Rhode Island Hospital researchers say injury rates have more than doubled in the past decade, with an average of nearly 90,000 kids being hurt on trampolines each year. 5 to 12 year olds were most likely to be injured. A majority of the injuries involved arms and legs.

News 07/09/07 5:30pm :30

Aids patients appear to be at a much greater risk of developing at least 20 types of cancer. Australian researchers say immune deficiency related to HIV and kidney transplants are the reason behind the increased risk. A new study shows rates of cancers associated with viruses, such as cervical cancer and the human papilloma virus are much higher among AIDS and kidney transplant patients. Rates of other cancer, such as breast and prostate, show no significant increase among these groups.

News 07/09/07 5:30pm :30

New research shows that pumpkin extract could drastically reduce the amount of insulin diabetics need to manage their blood sugar levels. The research was done using rats with

Type 1 diabetes. The extract appeared to help repair damaged pancreatic cells, which were then able to make insulin.

News **07/10/07** **6am** **:30**

Alzheimer's patients will soon have a new way to treat their symptoms. Novartis Pharmaceuticals says the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the Exelon Skin Patch to treat dementia in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease. The drug is currently available in pill form, and some patients experience gastro-intestinal side effects. But the drug maker says some of those side effects could be less severe or eliminated because the patch delivers medicine directly to the blood stream. There's no word on when the patch would be available to consumers.

News **07/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

In health news, a pill to help people stop smoking could help alcoholics overcome their addiction, too. The medication is called Varenicline, also sold under the brand name "Chantix" by Pfizer. The drug targets the "pleasure" area of the brain that's affected by nicotine. It works by stimulating the brain to release dopamine to ease cravings the blocks the effects of nicotine if the smoker lights up again. The research suggests Varenicline could work on the same part of the brain to help heavy drinkers put down the bottle.

News **07/11/07** **5am** **:30**

Researchers have identified a chemical in the blood that indicates the amount of dangerous belly fat a patient has. Visceral fat surrounds organs in the belly and, when present in high amount, is associated with heart disease and diabetes. In a new study, researchers measured levels of the compound RBP4 in nearly 200 participants. They found the compound was produced in the deep fat in the belly and was present in much greater quantities in obese people. They say RBP4 may be used as a marker for heart disease or diabetes and can also be a target for future drugs.

News **07/11/07** **6am** **:30**

Taking a lot of Vitamin D could increase your risk for colon cancer. Researchers of a new study say the association was weaker but still significant for colorectal cancer. The study involved testing blood plasma for Vitamin D in more than 1,000 people. Previous studies have indicated that people who live in regions with greater sun exposure generally have lower colon cancer mortality rates.

News **07/11/07** **12pm** **:30**

Some people who suffer from chronic insomnia could be somewhat vulnerable to mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety. That's based on an analysis of two general health surveys of more than 25,000 adults in Norway. The first survey was done in 1984, the

second about a decade later. People who reported chronic insomnia during the first survey were more likely to suffer from some form of anxiety 10 years later.

News **07/11/07** **12pm** **:30**

A new report highlights some of the problems that can accompany early Parkinson's disease. Hallucinations, sleepiness, and swelling are all associated with the early stages of the disease, according to the study from the University of Rochester School of Medicine. Researchers reviewed a clinical trial involving over 300 early Parkinson's patients on either one of two types of medication. Nearly one-fifth of participants developed hallucinations. More than a third developed fatigue and nearly half had increased swelling.

News **07/12/07** **6am** **:30**

If people continue to become obese at the current rate in the US, 75% of adults will be overweight or obese by 2015. That's according to statistics from John Hopkins researchers who reviewed 20 reports on obesity. The review shows 66% of US adults were considered overweight in 2003. Women ages 20 to 34 had the greatest increase in obesity prevalence. And while Asians had lower obesity rates overall, Asian-Americans born in the United States were four times more likely to be obese than their relatives born overseas.

News **07/13/07** **6am** **:30**

Here's a risk you could face, if you're admitted to the hospital. A new study found almost one-third of hospitalized patients are at risk of developing venous thrombosis, the formation of blood clots in a vein. This dangerous condition can lead to deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, when a piece of a clot enters an artery in the lungs. Both can be fatal. While VTE is easy to avoid by using anti-clotting medication or compression boots, researchers estimate at least half of hospitalized patients do not get an preventative care for VTE.

News **07/13/07** **6am** **:30**

Using condoms appears to be just as effective at preventing HIV as combining them with a diaphragm and lubricant gel. Previous research has shown cervical cells are especially vulnerable to HIV, so researchers wanted to see if the diaphragm could provide extra protection. In a clinical trial, a group of over 5,000 women were given either a diaphragm and condoms or condoms only. There was no significant difference in the number of new HIV infections between the two groups.

News **07/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

A drug used to treat erectile dysfunction may also help heart failure patients. Experts say patients who have a failing right ventricle in their heart don't have many treatment options. Researchers have previously identified Viagra as a treatment for pulmonary hypertension, a condition that often leads to weakening of this portion of the heart. In a new study in mice,

researchers found Viagra can strengthen the right ventricle and increase the amount of blood it can pump out.

News **07/16/07** **6am** **:30**

Medication often given to people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease could increase the likelihood patients will get even sicker. A Canadian study of over 175,000 COPD patients find those who were prescribed inhaled corticosteroids to control their disease were 70% more likely to wind up in the hospital with pneumonia. Once in the hospital, there was a 53% increase in pneumonia deaths within 30 days of admission. Researchers say the risk of pneumonia was reduced after the medication was stopped.

News **07/16/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Scientists say they've discovered another gene that raises the risk for Type 1 diabetes. This latest research adds to four genes already identified for the disease, in which the immune system attacks cells that produce insulin, making patients dependent on insulin injections. The newly discovered gene appears to be active in immune cells. Studies are ongoing. The ultimate goal for researchers, of course, is to develop new drugs to fight the disease.

News **07/16/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Some people try to "tough it out" when they have a cold, but new research shows their immune system may force them to sleep. A study in mice shows an immune system molecule suppresses circadian rhythm function during infections. Circadian rhythm is the 24 hour sleep cycle our bodies follow in order to function more properly. The molecule, called TNF Alpha, doesn't allow circadian rhythm genes to work, which results in increased sleep. Experts are not sure why the immune system induces fatigue, but they are planning more studies.

News **07/17/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Alzheimer's disease is becoming a huge concern as baby boomers age. Today the Senate Health subcommittee was scheduled to determine what needs to be done to prepare for a jump in dementia cases. And, experts now say a compound in the spice that gives curry its yellow color may also fight Alzheimer's disease. When the compound was added to blood samples from Alzheimer's, it boosted immune system cells and helped clear out harmful proteins.

News **07/18/07** **6am** **:30**

A little sneezing and congestion is one thing, but some people suffer from painful chronic nasal infections, called rhino sinusitis. Another review of research involving nearly 1,700 patients found spraying a saline solution into your nose can help reduce the pain and congestion. It's unclear how the saline works, but researchers say it appears to soften mucus and might help flush bacteria and allergic particles out of the nose.

News **07/18/07** **6am** **:30**

CAT scans could increase the risk of cancer in women and younger people. That's according to a new study. The radiation from the machines used to do CAT scans could lead to an increased risk of cancer for women and younger patients.

News **07/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

The FDA is coming under fire for its plan to close half of its food testing laboratories. This comes at a time when deadly food ingredients have killed or sickened both consumers and their pets. From deadly spinach to salmonella-tainted peanut butter to contaminated pet food. Our nation's food supply is sick according to testimony on Capitol Hill, and the FDA's new plan to close seven of its 13 labs will make Americans even sicker. Congress put the FDA Commissioner in the hot seat. FDA Commissioner Andrew con Eschenbach, M.D. said, "Although the changes may be painful, we cannot depend on current laboratory system that exists today to carry out the responsibilities of tomorrow." Consumer groups say over 10% of the average American diet is imported food, but less than 1% of imports are inspected by the FDA. This is a setup for disaster. A lot of finger pointing has been aimed at China, which now exports \$2.3 billion of agriculture products, plus tons of seafood, to the U.S. Some members of Congress will fight the FDA's lab closing proposal; saying now is the time to add inspectors and resources, not cut back.

News **07/20/07** **6am** **:30**

There's new hope for kids who suffer from ADHD. New research from Columbia University indicates children who are treated for Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder can show sustained improvements after three years. This latest research is the second in a series of long-term follow-up care of nearly 500 kids between the ages of 10 and 13. While the initial advantages of treatment waned a bit, families and teachers said they favored treatment that combined medicine with behavioral therapy.

News **07/20/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Exercising and eating a well-balanced diet could help you live a longer life, even if you have existing diseases or conditions. Harvard Medical School researchers found that lower levels of insulin in the brains of mice caused them to live longer. Experts say the best way to lower brain insulin levels is with a good diet and exercise.

News **07/23/07** **6am** **:30**

Women with advanced breast cancer can greatly improve their quality of life by sharing their experience with other women in the same situation. A 10 year study on the effects of support groups among women with metastasis breast cancer shows the groups can improve moods, lead to better coping, and reduce pain, anxiety, and even depression. Women in group therapy lived about as long as other patients. Earlier studies have indicated support groups can increase survival. But researchers think new medications and treatments allow for patients to live longer even without beneficial group therapy.

News **07/23/07** **6am** **:30**

Experts say mixing medications, even natural herbal supplements, can result in potentially dangerous reactions. And a study from Canada indicated the issue could be bigger than health care experts think. In a recent survey, 47% of pharmacists said they'd had a patient with a suspected interaction problem. But just 1.5% reported adverse reactions to health officials. Pharmacists also said 5% of patients asked about potential drug interactions.

News **07/23/07** **11pm** **:30**

Overwhelming evidence shows the heart-healthy benefits of lowering your levels of LDL or "bad" cholesterol. But is there such a thing as "too low" when it comes to cholesterol? A new Tuft's University School of Medicine study finds some evidence that extremely low LDL levels could be associated with an increased risk for cancer. The apparent cancer risk was low, about one additional cancer occurrence for every 1,000 patients who had achieved a much lower LDL level. Researchers say they didn't expect to find the cancer risk when they began the study. In fact, they had started off by trying to understand how and why statins cause side effects.

News **07/24/07** **6am** **:30**

Sunshine could protect you from a debilitating disease. Getting sun at an early age could lower your risk of Multiple Sclerosis. That's according to a new study. Researchers studied 79 pairs of identical twins with the same genetic risk for MS but where only one twin had the disease. They found the twin who spent more time outside during their childhood had a 25 to 57% reduced risk of developing MS, depending on the outdoor activity.

News **07/24/07** **6am** **:30**

An FDA Advisory panel is considering the approval of a new drug for breast cancer prevention. Evista is already on the market, but as an osteoporosis drug. At this point, there is only one drug available for women at high risk for breast cancer who have not been diagnosed. That's Tamoxifen. A 2006 study compared Evista and Tamoxifen and found the drugs were comparable in reducing the risk of invasive breast cancer. The Evista group had fewer cases of uterine cancer and blood clots, a potential risk with Tamoxifen. However, the drugs had similar risks for heart disease and stroke.

News **07/24/07** **6pm** **:30**

When it comes to meat, the USDA seal is required to prove that it has been inspected by a federal agency. But what many consumers may not know is that some meat has been treated with carbon monoxide gas to keep it looking fresh for weeks. And some in Congress want that stopped. Congressional hearings pointed to the pitfalls of treating meat with carbon monoxide. Congressman Stupak and Congressman Ed Markey have introduced legislation

that would require meat treated with carbon monoxide to be labeled so the consumers will know. According to the industry, two-thirds of all meat and chicken is no longer cut by a butcher in front of customers or in back of the supermarket case. Now prepackaged, "case ready" meat is prepared off site at large distributors and then shipped to supermarkets. The carbon monoxide treatment helps keep meat looking fresh in that process. Food experts say a pound of ground beef cut by a butcher goes brown in four to five days. But meat treated with carbon monoxide by a meat packer can stay looking fresh for weeks. Industry representatives of large meat packers say the additive is harmless and it's easy to tell when the product goes bad.

News **07/24/07** **11pm** **:30**

When it comes to locating potential breast cancers on mammograms, eight eyes may be better than four. Dutch researchers wanted to see if mammogram readings by two technologists in addition to the standard two radiologists would improve breast cancer detection rates. They found the detection rate went up by 6.8% when mammograms were read by the additional two technologists. And it appears more eyes improve accuracy as well adding two technologists only slightly increased the number of false positives.

News **07/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Hip protectors don't protect senior citizens' hips very well. That's according to a new study that found an estimated 340,000 hip fractures occur each year in the US with the majority happening in nursing homes. Many nursing homes have been using an energy absorbing hip protector to try to prevent these injuries. Researchers wanted to test their effectiveness, so they had over 1,000 nursing home residents wear a protector on one hip and nothing on the other for 20 months. They found there was no difference in the fracture rates in the hips with or without the protector.

News **07/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Many doctors are prescribing antibiotics for ailments that don't necessarily respond to the drugs. That's the conclusion from a British Advisory Committee, which analyzed doctor consultations between 1998 and 2001. Among cases in which an antibiotic was prescribed, about 80% were for conditions that many experts say cannot, or should not, be treated with antibiotics. These include sore throats, ear infections, and upper respiratory infections. Researchers say this is fueling antibiotic resistance when bacteria stop responding to common treatments.

News **07/26/07** **6am** **:30**

A new UCLA study links diesel exhaust pollution to atherosclerosis or, hardening of the arteries. That, in turn, significantly increases a person's chance of having a heart attack or stroke. Lab and animal tests show fine particles in air pollution work in tandem with artery-clogging fats to switch on genes that cause blood vessel inflammation.

News **07/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Nearly 4 in 10 surveyed Americans believe that living in a polluted city is a greater risk for lung cancer than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. That's just one of the beliefs about cancer not backed by current research that people give credence to in a telephone survey by the American Cancer Society. 67% of Americans said the risk of dying from cancer in the US is increasing, when the latest statistics show the death rate has been decreasing since the 1990s. About one and seven people believe personal hygiene products, like deodorant and shampoo cause cancer.

News **07/26/07** **12pm** **:30**

In health news today, the number of sudden infant death syndrome cases continues to decline worldwide. Researchers say they can largely attribute the decreasing death rate on moms putting their babies to sleep on their backs. The latest research is from New Zealand, where a survey shows 72% of babies are placed on their backs. Still, an estimated 2,500 SIDS deaths occur in the US each year. Experts say the risk for SIDS can be reduced by giving babies a pacifier for the first year and having your baby sleep in their own crib or bassinet.

News **07/26/07** **12pm** **:30**

The Indian government has confirmed a bird flu outbreak. The outbreak in India's remote northeast is the first in the country in a year. Government workers plan to slaughter some 150,000 birds in a three mile radius around the affected farm. Health workers will also check for any signs of flu in the people living near the farm.

News **07/27/07** **6am** **:30**

Smoking marijuana even one time might increase your odds of developing mental illness later in life. That's according to researchers in the UK who analyzed 35 studies on the drug. They say people who had smoked marijuana were 41% more likely to go on to develop a mental health disorder than those who have never smoked the drug. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, marijuana is the most commonly abused illicit drug in the United States.

News **07/27/07** **6am** **:30**

There may be a way to reverse the effects of cocaine, which could lead to better treatments for addicts. Researchers in Switzerland say they've been able to reverse the effects of cocaine in the brains of lab mice. The focus of the researcher is on brain receptors that play a role in satisfaction and pleasure. Some of these receptors go into overdrive during cocaine use. Scientists were able to repress those receptors by stimulating others, effectively reversing the drug's effects.

News **07/27/07** **12pm** **:30**

In medical news today, the Food and Drug Administration has shut down a gene therapy trial after a patient died this week. Officials say it's unclear what officially caused the death, but it could have been a reaction to an experimental treatment for arthritis. Seattle company Targeted Genetics informed the FDA on Friday that the patient had a "serious adverse event." The patient died four days later. The trial had 127 participants at research centers across the country.

News **07/30/07** **6am** **:30**

A new study shows racial disparities among those suffering from arthritis. As the baby boomer population ages, the number of arthritis cases increases. Researchers at Northwestern University reviewed data from a mental health and retirement study, which included more than 7,000 people. One in six reported developing arthritis that affected their daily lives, and the rates of disability among African Americans and Hispanics who spoke only Spanish were almost twice that of whites. Researchers say lack of insurance and access to medical care appeared to be factors in the disparities.

News **07/30/07** **6am** **:30**

After scanning DNA samples from more than 20,000 people worldwide. Researchers say they've identified two new genes that influence the risk of multiple sclerosis. Scientists say these are the first new MS genes to be located in 20 years. The exact cause of MS is unclear. Experts say it's probably some mix of genetic and environmental factors.

News **07/31/07** **6am** **:30**

Exercise and caffeine combined could help reduce your risk of skin cancer. A new study from Rutgers focused on a group of hairless mice that were exposed to UVB radiation. UVB rays are known to damage cell DNA which can then lead to skin cancer. This latest research showed that, compared with "control" mice, the animals that exercised on running wheels and drank caffeinated water showed a nearly 400% increase in the rate of suicide among the damaged skin cells. The amount of caffeine in the water was about the human equivalent of one of two cups of coffee a day.

News **07/31/07** **12pm** **:30**

Women who have uterine fibroid tumors, which are noncancerous growths in the uterus, can suffer from severe pain and bloating. A new study from the Mayo Clinic highlights a non-invasive way of treating the tumors and their painful symptoms. The procedure uses high-energy sound waves that travel through the abdominal wall, targeting the fibroids. Thermal energy destroys the tumors by clogging the blood supply, sparing healthy tissue. Researchers followed more than 350 women for two years after treatment and say women had sustained relief from their symptoms.

News **08/01/07** **6am** **:30**

Meals filled with pasta and white bread could also contribute to worsening eyesight as you age. A new study from Tufts University finds a diet with a high glycemic index can significantly increase the chances of developing age-related macular degeneration. Such foods include heavy carbs like potato chips and white bread. Researchers estimate 20% of cases could have been prevented had patients consumed more foods with a lower glycemic index.

News **08/01/07** **6am** **:30**

Occupational lead exposure is known to affect brain functioning. But a new study indicated those who are better readers may be somewhat protected from the negative health effects of lead. The latest research is based on over 100 smelter workers in Canada. Researchers say the cognitive effects of lead were two and a half times greater in workers who scored lower on reading test. Reading ability did not appear to reduce the risk for lead's toxic effect on motor skills.

News **08/01/07** **6am** **:30**

A federal panel has called for the continued sale of the widely-prescribed diabetes drug Avandia, even though some studies suggest the drug raises the risk of heart attack. On Monday, a FDA advisory committee recommended that Avandia stay on the market despite the heart risks. A local cardiologist says the data so far doesn't suggest pulling the drug from the market or telling people not to take it. Dr. Marc Schweiger says, "If the feeling was that the cardiac risk outweighed the benefits, it would have been taken off the market. So I don't think there's enough data to say absolutely no one should take it, but I think on an individual basis, people need to discuss it with their doctors." Some members of the FDA panel said Avandia causes thousands of heart attacks each year. But other panel members disagreed and the drug was reapproved by a vote of 20 to three.

News **08/02/07** **6am** **:30**

Reducing stress on a day-to-day basis could help fight chronic diseases such as lupus, according to a small new study from Spain. Lupus is an autoimmune condition in which antibodies cause injuries to the body's cells and tissue, leading to fatigue, pain, and inflammation. Spanish researchers say working directly with patients to reduce their stress levels led to reduce physical symptoms. An estimated 5 million people world-wide suffer from the disease.

News **08/03/07** **6am** **:30**

If you've ever experienced stroke-like symptoms that were so faint you weren't even concerned, it's possible that could have been a warning sign of things to come. According to a new study, you may have had what researchers are calling a "whispering stroke." That's when people experience brief, vague stroke symptoms, but don't pay much attention and are never officially diagnosed as having had a stroke. In a survey of more than 21,000 adults, researchers say those who experienced these kinds of symptoms scored lower on scales of physical and even mental functioning, compared with people who'd never had symptoms.

Doctors say even minor symptoms could indicate a person has had a small stroke, which increases the risk for a major one.

News **08/03/07** **12pm** **:30**

There are some new exercise guidelines from the American Heart Association. It's now being recommended that adults get at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise five days a week or exercise vigorously at least 20 minutes three days a week. The new study also calls for weightlifting to increase strength and endurance. People 65 and older were urged to try activities like weight lifting to improve their strength and balance to help prevent falls.

News **08/06/07** **6am** **:30**

New information about why 14 million Americans suffer from rosacea. Rosacea is an inflammatory skin disease that causes facial redness. The unusual blushing often affects people with fair skin and can be triggered by heat, alcohol, spicy food, and even embarrassment. In mouse studies, scientists from the University of California, San Diego say they found that rosacea appears to be caused by over-production of two inflammatory proteins. When those two interact, excessive levels of a third protein lead to rosacea symptoms.

News **08/06/07** **6am** **:30**

Thousands of adults take statins to lower their LDL or "bad" cholesterol. And now new research from the Netherlands suggests some children as young as eight years old could benefit. Specifically, children with a condition called "familial hyper-cholesterol-emia" or FH for short. Experts that from birth, FH leads to severely elevated levels of damaging cholesterol and premature heart disease. The study followed more than 200 such children for two years. Researchers say the statin therapy was able to slow the progression of thickening arteries safely. The study was funded by drug maker Bristol-Myers Squibb.

News **08/07/07** **11pm** **:30**

It's one of the most under-diagnosed conditions and probably the most painful. Western Massachusetts is now home to a state of the art medical center that can take the pain away. The cause is a nerve disorder in the brain called "trigeminal neuralgia," Trigeminal neuralgia is a pain in the cheek or jaw, often mistaken for tooth pain, but pulling a tooth won't stop it. Mercy Medical Center is now home to the region's first Trigeminal Neuralgia Care Center where all treatment options are available, including a technique called the "Janetta procedure," named for the doctor who pioneered it. A small incision is made behind the ear, and then, through a small opening in the skull, the surgeon inserts a small piece of Teflon padding to prevent nerve contact. It most commonly affects people in their 50s and 60s and seemingly comes out of the blue.

News **08/08/07** **6am** **:30**

Some antacids have been linked to a higher risk of dementia. In a new study from Indiana University, elderly African-Americans who regularly took H2 blockers to reduce their acid reflux had two and a half times the risk of developing dementia. Tagamet, Pepcid, and Zantac are examples of H2 blockers. They work by preventing stomach acid from being produced. But researchers say the drugs also appear to affect areas of the brain involved in memory. Researchers caution this study does have some drawbacks, mainly that this was an observational study, not a clinical trial. The findings must be confirmed by additional research. A representative from GlaxoSmithKline, which makes Zantac and Tagamet, echoed that warning in a telephone interview and added that anyone taking antacids on a regular basis should be under a doctor's care.

News **08/09/07** **6am** **:30**

New Zealand scientists say adding low doses of fluoride to estrogen therapy might help boost bone density for post-menopausal women with osteoporosis but might not help prevent fractures. The study included 80 women who were followed for four years. Women who took the fluoride supplement in addition to their estrogen therapy did have significantly increased bone density in their spine. But although there were fewer broken vertebrae among the fluoride group, other fractures increased.

News **08/10/07** **6am** **:30**

Sleepless nights could lead to more nighttime trips to the bathroom. Normally, our body doesn't produce as much urine while we sleep, helping us get a good night's rest. But in a new study from Denmark, study participants who were kept awake at night actually produced more urine than they did when they were able to sleep through until dawn. The effect was especially pronounced in men.

News **08/14/07** **6am** **:30**

A new study reveals who is most likely to die from heatstroke when temperatures become unbearable. In analyzing who had been hospitalized during a heat wave in 2003, researchers in France found that those most likely to die from heatstroke usually came from nursing homes or were taking blood pressure medication. A separate review of heatstroke research finds people who don't get out of their houses daily or are confined to their bed were also at an increased risk for heatstroke death.

News **08/14/07** **11pm** **:30**

Stronger warning labels that detail heart failure risks will be added to certain type two diabetes medications. The drugs Avandia, Actos, Avandaryl, Avandamet, and Duetact will now carry boxed warnings on their labels. FDA officials studied adverse event reports on concluded the drugs may cause or worsen heart failure in certain patients. They say patients on these drugs need to be monitored for signs of heart failure, like significant weight gain and edema. An FDA advisory panel concluded the drug can stay on the market, but the risk of heart attack should be added to the label. The manufacturers of Avandia note the risks for heart failure have been listed in the drug label since 1999.

News **08/15/07** **6am** **:30**

Abortion pills don't appear to put future pregnancies at risk. A new study included nearly 12,000 women in Denmark who'd had an abortion either through surgery or medication. Researchers say they found no significant difference in the number of subsequent miscarriages, tubal pregnancies, premature births or low birth weight babies in the two groups. The study only compared the two types of abortion, not abortion pill users versus women who'd never had an abortion. But researchers say the long-term safety of surgical abortion during the first trimester is "well established."

News **08/15/07** **6am** **:30**

Women who have a history of gestational diabetes could have a greater risk of developing pancreatic cancer later in life. Gestational diabetes occurs when pregnant women have high blood sugar levels. This latest research tracked more than 37,000 women in Jerusalem who gave birth between 1964 and 1976. The overall incidence of pancreatic cancer was relatively low among women who'd had gestational diabetes, but researchers say the rate was significant enough link the two.

News **08/15/07** **6am** **:30**

A low dose testosterone patch could help women who have extremely low sex drives because of surgeries they've had to have to remove their ovaries and uterus. After six months of treatment, 52% of women on the patch saw improvement in their sex drives compared with 31% of those on a placebo. The study was sponsored by Proctor and Gamble and included women who'd participated in one of two clinical trials for the patch.

News **8/21/07** **5am** **:30**

The number of people suffering from food allergies has doubled in the past years. Food allergies affect an estimated 12 million Americans. Children are one of the largest groups dealing with this issue. A large percentage of food allergies are being seen among children between the ages of two and 12 years old. A new report from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease shows that 30,000 people are sent to the emergency room each year for food allergy attacks, with reactions causing up to 200 deaths per year. Studies also showing that many of the children affected by food allergies won't grow out of it and may even worsen with age. The foods that cause 90% allergies include milk, eggs, wheat, soy, and peanuts. Doctors advise parents of children with severe food allergies to always carry anti-histamine and an EpiPen, which is a shot used during an attack to alleviate the reaction. For allergy sufferers, it's important to always ask questions about food at restaurant and be aware of how products are prepared.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Obese people who say they can't help being overweight may have a point after all. New research announced at the American Chemical Society's annual meeting in Boston found

that human stem cells were exposed to a common virus they turned into fat cells. But be warned diet, genetics, and lifestyle play a much large role in causing obesity.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Weight could be blame for incontinence in some women. While the majority of women who suffer from incontinence are over 60. A grow number having symptoms at an earlier age. Researchers in Boston followed over 30,000 women and found those who gained 11 to 20 pounds after turning 18 were 44% more likely to develop early incontinence than women who gained only a few pounds.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Women who suffer from dementia start showing physical sign of the disease up to 20 years before it is obvious. A new study shows women who develop dementia start losing weight at least 10, and as many as 20 years, before they are diagnosed. Medical records of nearly 1,000 people show women who were diagnosed with dementia weighed an average of 12 pounds less than those without the disease. According to researchers, it's not necessarily the weight loss that might signal early dementia. It's the behavior that leads to weight loss. Researchers say it may be that people in the very early stages of dementia could lose their sense of smell, which may make people less inclined to eat.

News **8/21/07** **11pm** **:30**

Cellson the list of reasons why Americans are getting fatter, researchers are adding more evidence for one controversial cause: a virus. New research found that when human stem cells were exposed to a common virus they changed into fat cells. Louisiana state university researchers took fat tissue from people who had liposuction. Removed adult stem cells from the tissue and exposed the cells to the virus in the lab. More than half the stem cells exposed to the virus turned into fat cells and accumulated fats, while only a small percentage of the non-exposed stem did the same. But still researchers say this guilt-free explanation for putting on pounds still doesn't explain all or even most of America's growing obesity problem.

News **8/21/07** **11pm** **:30**

A French study of about 13,000 people finds taking a daily antioxidant supplement might raise a woman's risk for the deadliest type of skin cancer. Antioxidants are thought to protect cells from the effects of damaging free radicals. Researchers had men and women take daily supplements of Vitamins C, E and Beta Carotene, Selenium and Zinc or a placebo and followed them for more than 7 years. In women taking the supplements, the risk for melanoma was found to be increased. The same was not true for men.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Olive oil could help keep you healthy. Spanish researchers say virgin olive oil rich in substances called phenols could help prevent blood clots in people with high cholesterol. For one week, study participants ate a breakfast of white bread with olive oil that had a high

phenol content. They then switched to an olive oil that had most of the phenols taken out. The phenol-rich olive oil promoted changes in the blood vessels that help prevent clotting. Experts say virgin and extra virgin olive oils generally have the highest phenol content.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Heavy alcohol use appears to increase the risk men will a stroke. The latest research is a long-term study of more than 64,000 Chinese men. When the study began in 1991, all of the participants were over 40 and had never had a stroke. Within 10 years, researchers say those men who drank the most alcohol per week were most likely to have had a stroke. More than 21 drinks a week was considered heavy drinking.

News **8/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Whiplash could lead to jaw pain later on. A third of people who suffer from whiplash could develop jaw pain up to a year after the incident, according to a new study from Sweden. The research included 60 patients who were hospitalized after read-end car collisions. A year after the accidents, 34-percent of patients had developed symptoms of TMJ Including jaw pain, clicking and locking of the jaw; that's compared with just 7% of control subjects who were not injured.

News **9/6/07** **6am** **:30**

A university of Iowa professor has identified a distinct type of eating disorder. It's called "purging disorder" -- and experts say it's similar to bulimia nervosa. But while bulimia is characterized by eating huge quantities of food and purging, those who suffer from "purging disorder" tend to eat normal or even small amounts of food and then purge in an attempt to control their weight. In a study of 90 women with and without eating disorders, researchers at the University of Iowa found those with purging disorder tended to feel fuller after eating a meal most people would consider normal. Additional studies are ongoing to understand the condition further.

News **9/7/07** **6am** **:30**

A new study finds depression can be more deadly than several common health conditions. The study of nearly 250,000 from across the globe found between 9 and 23% experienced depression along with chest pain, diabetes, arthritis or asthma. People with a combination of depression and a chronic condition felt worse than those with only one ailment. Experts also say fewer people are given medication for depression compared to treatment rates for chest pain and arthritis.

News **9/10/07** **6am** **:30**

Cancer treatments cause extreme fatigue, according to a new study. The research involved more than 400 women, half of whom were in the early stages of breast cancer. The cancer patients had either been through radiation or radiation plus chemotherapy. Overall, breast cancer patients were tired more often than the healthy women. And those who'd added

chemo to their radiation treatment reported the most severe and prolonged fatigue, even 6 months after treatment.

News **9/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

Preliminary research suggests that postmenopausal women who have two or more alcoholic beverages a day could double their risk for endometrial cancer. The study from the University of Southern California followed women of various ethnicities and races for 8 years. Researchers also found the association between high alcohol intake and cancer was stronger among lean women than overweight women. Endometrial cancer accounts for about 6% percent of all cancers in women.

News **9/10/07** **12pm** **:30**

Could arthritis in the knees actually be a pre-cursor to a certain kind of cancer? A new study says what's happening below the waist could affect your lungs. Dr. Deanna Lites reports. Researchers at a hospital in Italy looked at patients with mild knee arthritis over a period of six years. The findings were that arthritis was the first warning sign of lung cancer. Cancer expert Dr. Lecia Sequist says this isn't the first time lung cancer and arthritis have been linked. In the study the number of patients diagnosed with lung cancer was small, just under 2%, and they were heavy smokers, which puts them at higher risk of developing lung cancer. But Dr. Sequist says knee pain may be an early warning sign.

News **9/11/07** **6am** **:30**

Vitamin E supplements could help women reduce their risk of potentially deadly blood clots known as Venous Thrombo Embolism, or VTE. That's according to Harvard researchers, who reviewed data on nearly 40,000 women who were asked to take either Vitamin E supplements or a placebo every other day for a decade. Overall, women on Vitamin E were 21% less likely to develop a blood clot. Researchers caution much more research needs to be done before women at risk for blood clots consider taking Vitamin E instead of blood thinners prescribed by their doctors.

News **9/11/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

A study released today again suggests the diabetes drug Avandia may cause heart problems. Wake Forest University researchers analyzed 4 controlled clinical trials in which 14,000 patients were given Avandia or a placebo sugar pill. They found 94 people taking the drug suffered a heart attack compared to 83 people taking placebo. Avandia's safety was scrutinized by the FDA earlier this year when a similar study also suggested Avandia increased risk for heart failure. FDA officials did not take the drug off the market, but did add black box warnings to the label detailing the increased risk for heart failure.

News **9/12/07** **6am** **:30**

Blood pressure is rising among America's youth and a new study suggests the increasing obesity epidemic is part of the problem. Researchers say that each one centimeter increase

in weight circumference in children and teens raises the risk for high blood pressure by 10-percent. the analysis comes from 7 government surveys dating back to 1963, and includes data on young people between the ages of 8 and 17. High blood pressure readings for children and teens decreased between 1963 and the 80's then reversed through 2002. The change was especially pronounced among Mexican-American males.

News **9/13/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Drug-maker Glaxo Smith Kline today announced they'll supply 30 to 35 million doses of flu vaccine this year, which CDC officials say contributes to the most vaccine available to patients ever in one year. Manufacturers are projected to supply 132 million doses of flu vaccine this year. GSK is one of four companies that provide flu vaccine to the U-S. The others are Sanofi Pasteur, Novartis and Med Immune. Manufacturers started shipping the vaccine in August meaning many patients can get the shot in October or November, the best time for vaccination according to the CDC.

News **9/13/07** **11pm** **:30**

Easter seals are hoping to make at least fifty thousand dollars on this year's walk. Once again it will be held on Sunday October 21st at forest park in Springfield.

News **9/14/07** **6am** **:30**

Having conditions that increase your risk for heart disease could also make you more susceptible to kidney stones. Researchers from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have found that people with metabolic syndrome tend to have highly acidic urine. That, in turn, increases the risk for uric-acid kidney stones. Metabolic syndrome includes obesity, high blood pressure, and low levels of good cholesterol. An estimated 50-million Americans suffer from metabolic syndrome. Researchers say uric-acid kidney stones are sometimes difficult to diagnose because they may not show up on regular abdominal x-rays.

News **9/14/07** **6am** **:30**

Heart disease patients who frequently skip taking their medications appear to be at an increased risk for additional heart attacks, stroke, and even death. The study from the University of California at San Francisco included more than a thousand heart patients who were followed for 4 years. Those who neglected to take their medication at least 25% of the time were more than twice as likely to suffer serious consequences.

News **9/17/07** **6am** **:30**

Studying microbes on contact lenses might help eye doctors identify organisms in corneal eye infection cases. Australian researchers grew cultures from lenses and samples taken directly from the cornea in patients who suffered from eye infections. Both the lens and

corneal cultures were identical in some cases, and researchers say the lens cultures could help doctors choose treatment for patients.

News **9/18/07** **6am** **:30**

It appears many people are unaware of a common and potentially dangerous disease. It's called peripheral arterial disease and occurs when arteries in the legs become narrowed or clogged with fatty deposits. Doctors say it can increase the risk for heart attack, stroke, amputation and death. A telephone survey of older adults found three-fourths were not familiar with the disease even though a majority did know about stroke, heart failure and coronary artery disease. People most at risk are people over the age of 50 with diabetes or high blood pressure.

News **9/18/07** **6am** **:30**

Combining aerobic and resistance training exercise could help people with Type 2 diabetes control their blood sugar. The Canadian study included more than 250 adults with diabetes, none of whom had been exercising regularly. People who did aerobics plus resistance training had about twice as much improvement in their blood sugar control than people who did just one type of exercise.

News **9/18/07** **5pm** **:30**

Expect to spend a lot more on healthcare than the rest of the nation. It's no surprise that Massachusetts ranks second in the country for healthcare spending. Research, better access to better health care, an increase in advertising by drug companies, and technology are just some of the reasons people in mass are spending more to stay healthy. An average household in the state is spending \$6,683 each year on healthcare, \$1,400 more than the rest of the nation. People in those households also have higher annual salaries. But there are ways to cut down on healthcare spending. Health New England recommends asking your doctor for generic drugs and perhaps, more importantly, educating yourself about how to eat better, exercise, and live an overall healthier life.

News **9/19/07** **6am** **:30**

Scientists are closer to developing a rapid test to detect chromosomal abnormalities in unborn children. Currently, expectant parents must wait about two weeks for results on prenatal tests for Down syndrome and other similar birth defects. Now scientists from Stanford University say they've developed a new method that appears to provide accurate results within two hours. Researchers think the new technology could also lead to a blood test as an alternative for amniocentesis.

News **9/19/07** **6am** **:30**

A substance found in broccoli and other cruciferous vegetables could help protect your brain after a head injury. That's according to a new study from the University of Texas Medical School where tests on lab rats found the substance helped maintain the blood-brain barrier.

The barrier is made up of a bunch of cells that basically stand guard at the brain, only allowing select chemicals in. Experts say the barrier can be greatly compromised after head trauma.

News **9/19/07** **6am** **:30**

Patients taking the blood thinner Coumadin may soon have a personalized prescription. The food and drug administration has cleared the way for marketing of a genetic test that will help doctors assess which patients could be especially sensitive to the drug, which is used to prevent blood clots. Experts say about a third of patients on Coumadin have genetic variants that cause them to metabolize the drug differently. They are at a higher risk for bleeding. FDA officials say the new test is able to detect some variants of the two genes.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

Flu season is approaching, and government health officials are sounding an alarm that only a fraction of the people who need flu shots the most are getting them. Their figures show just one in five babies and toddlers are getting flu vaccines. The warning comes from officials who are worried a string of mild flu seasons and confusion over vaccines in recent years are deterring people from a simple lifesaver. The government is encouraging people to get a flu shot, especially if they're in a high-risk group. The flu kills about 36,000 Americans a year

News **9/20/07** **5am** **:30**

A clean bill of health for the Allen Street Dunkin Donuts in Hampden after a food scare caused management to shut down the store as a precaution Tuesday afternoon. Hampden health board chairman Richard green tells 22news a customer complained of nausea and a headache five minutes after she had coffee there. The incident triggered an immediate health department response. The Hampden health board gave the okay for Dunkin donuts to re-open at ten yesterday morning.

News **9/20/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Women who have a baby before age 20 might be at a higher risk for chronic disease and death when they reach middle age. That's the conclusion of a study including more than 4,000 women born in the US between 1931 and 1941. Those who'd given birth before their 20th birthday, which would've been in the 1950's and 60's had higher rates of heart disease, lung disease and cancer as older adults. Researchers think the socio-economic effects of being a young, single mom could be associated with a lack of healthcare.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Ozone-depleting substances would be removed from asthma inhalers under a new proposal from the food and drug administration. At issue are chlorofluorocarbons, "CFC's" for short. The government banned use of CFC's in most consumer aerosol products nearly 30 years ago because of its negative effects on the ozone layer. However, CFC's are still used in

epinephrine metered dose inhalers, which many people use to relieve their asthma symptoms. Under the proposed change, epinephrine inhalers with CFC's would be phased out of the market by the end of 2010. FDA officials say they think it's possible for such inhalers to be manufactured without the use of CFC.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

Tiny particles in air pollution appear to speed up blood clotting, according to a study from Northwestern University. By analyzing the effects of particulate matter on lab mice, researchers conclude that when lungs are exposed to pollution particles, the lungs secrete an immune system compound shown to increase the risk for blood clotting. That, in turn, increases the chances of heart attacks and strokes. Just last week another study found breathing in diesel fumes while exercising increased the risk of blood clots among heart attack survivors.

News **9/21/07** **6am** **:30**

When it comes to getting in shape, soccer appears to burn more fat and build more muscle than jogging. That's according to a study from Denmark, where researchers followed a group of 37 male soccer players and joggers. Researchers attribute the better health benefits of soccer to the combination of walking, running and sprinting in the game. The jogging group reported much more exhaustion than the soccer group after workouts. Researchers say soccer simply may be more fun for athletes.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

Taking a daily dose of Vitamin D could help protect you from broken hips; that's according to a new study. University of Pittsburg researchers found as the level of Vitamin D decreased, the risk of hip fractures went up. In fact, the risk was 77% higher in women whose levels were at the lowest concentrations. Some experts think the recommended dose of Vitamin D should be increased. Exposure to sunlight is another way to boost Vitamin D levels.

News **9/21/07** **5pm** **:30**

Dramatically lowering the amount of calories you consume may extend your Life! Researchers have known for decades that caloric restriction diets, those that decrease the number of calories consumed each day, may increase life span. Now they have identified two genes that appear to play a role in the process. The genes protect the portion of the cell that keeps it going, therefore keeping cells alive when they would normally die. They hope to use this information to develop drugs that target diseases associated with aging.

News **9/24/07** **6am** **:30**

It appears a common childhood vaccination for rubella may have nearly eliminated a severe inflammatory eye disease from the population. The disease, called FHI, causes glaucoma, cataracts and can even lead to blindness, and there is no treatment. While scientists don't

know what causes FHI, some studies had found a link to the rubella virus. Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago tracked cases before and after the rubella vaccine was developed in 1959. They found a significant drop in cases of FHI in patients born after the vaccine was introduced.

News **9/24/07** **6am** **:30**

When it comes to the battle against Prostate Cancer, a new review of research suggests medication and diet could be key. University of Toronto scientists pooled published literature on the subject, and say existing drugs designed to prevent prostate cancer show promise in reducing the number of cancers biopsied in men. Researchers say they're encouraged by results of studies on Selenium and Vitamin E, but stress research is ongoing. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among American men.

News **9/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

Even when faced with a family history of heart disease, women are less likely than men to do what they can to reduce their own risk: quitting smoking, eating a healthy diet, and getting plenty of exercise are all ways experts say you can reduce your risk for heart disease. But in a study of more than 24-hundred adults, Women with a family history of the disease, were less likely than men to stop smoking or start exercising.

News **9/24/07** **12pm** **:30**

In health news this afternoon... Merck has halted its experimental aids vaccine trial after it was found to be ineffective at preventing HIV infections. Out of 741 participants who received the vaccine, 24 became infected with HIV. In the placebo group, 21 people became infected out of 762 participants. All of the volunteers were HIV free at the beginning of the study, but were considered high risk. Researchers say the vaccine had been designed to make the body produce more immune system cells.

News **9/24/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

If you're looking for a holistic way to beat the flu this year, try yoga! A Washington state university study recently found that breast cancer patients, who practiced yoga three times a week, felt less pain and were less tired and fearful. And their blood tests revealed they experienced noticeably less of stress that damages your immune system. Yoga helps lower the levels of immunity- attacking stress chemicals, replacing them with feel good endorphins.

News **9/25/07** **5am** **:30**

Fewer women are being diagnosed and fewer are dying from breast cancer. The latest statistics from the American cancer society show hopeful news. But a closer look at the numbers paints a slightly different picture, one that reveals a growing racial divide in survival rates and a troubling screening trend. The good news is breast

cancer death rates continue to fall at the steady rate of just over two percent a year, a trend that first began in 1990 and has continued through 2004. One American cancer society experts say is the payoff from advances in early detection and treatment. The drop in death rates was biggest among younger women and smallest among African American women. The report also finds fewer women are being diagnosed with breast cancer, a drop experts say is bad news because it reflects the recent decline in the number of women getting mammograms. Adding to the challenges for policy makers and the medical community, a menu of details about lifestyle risk factors likes obesity and alcohol use.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

A new unit at Mercy Medical Center will improve the care of people with serious injuries or medical problems. The hospital unveiled its new Intensive Care Wing yesterday. Hundreds of people toured the 16-bed unit. Patients will be moved from the old unit in about a month. The construction marks the first phase of a \$16 million construction and renovation project.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

Women trying to preserve their memory may want to stick to crossword puzzles. A new study of 180 young, postmenopausal women found taking hormones did not improve their memory, contradicting previous research. However, the women did report an increase in sexual interest and thoughts. The study was stopped early because enrollment dropped after another study found hormones may increase the risk for breast cancer.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

Children with Type 1 Diabetes are constantly pricking their fingers to check their blood sugar. Now they may be able to determine their blood glucose with a non-invasive breath test. A study of 10 children with the disease found their breath had significantly higher levels of nitrates when their sugar was high, a signal they need more insulin. Experts are conducting more studies and hope to a do full profile of diabetes-related cases soon.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

Americans are most comfortable seeing their own doctor after they've been involved in a medical emergency. A survey of over 12-hundred Canadian patients found being seen by their own doctor was what most preferred. This was followed by using an after-hours clinic affiliated with their family doctor with the lowest satisfaction scores coming from those who got care at a walk-in clinic. Researchers suggest their findings prove increased access to primary care physicians could be beneficial.

News **9/25/07** **6am** **:30**

A popular children's health insurance program is in danger of being cancelled if lawmakers and the President can't come to an agreement. The bill, agreed to by House and Senate negotiators, calls for a 35 billion dollar expansion of the program, which expires on Sunday.

The money would come from increased tobacco taxes, including a hike in the federal cigarette tax to \$1 per pack. That's a 61 cent jump. President Bush is willing to go along with a five million dollar expansion.

News **9/25/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Many of us enjoy exercising outdoors. But you may want to think twice about where you do that outdoor workout. 22news reporter Jade Rivera has information on a new study involving pollution and your heart. It's good to exercise but in the wrong environment, it can be a health problem. Now a new study backs that up. Researchers took 20 men who had heart disease and had them ride a stationary bike for two 15 minute periods in an enclosed chamber, while exposed to either diesel exhaust or filtered air. Preventative cardiologist Dr. Peter Libby says a couple of things happened when the men were exposed to diesel exhaust. But experts say this study should not keep people from working out.

News **9/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Colon Cancer, how to detect it and who's at risk. According to a new study from China, people with coronary artery disease appear to have nearly twice the prevalence of colorectal tumors and pre-cancerous lesions. The association was strongest among people who'd smoked or had metabolic syndrome. The study included more than 600 people. Lesions and tumors found on the colon were more prevalent among those who'd been diagnosed with coronary artery disease. Experts say colon cancer and heart disease have some of the same risk factors, such as smoking, obesity, diabetes and a high-fat diet.

News **9/26/07** **6am** **:30**

Although doctors highly recommend a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, it appears these healthy foods might not affect a person's risk for colon cancer. Harvard researchers reviewed 14 studies on the subject. This included more than 750,000 adults who were followed for 6 to 20 years. Analysts say that overall, fruit and veggie intake was not associated with colon cancer risk. Regardless, most experts still recommend diets filled with vegetables and fruit for their other health benefits.

News **9/26/07** **12pm** **:30**

A Harvard medical student will get extra time to breast feed her baby daughter during her nine hour medical licensing exam. That's according to a state appeals court ruling. 33 year old Sophie Currier sued after the National Board of Medical Examiners turned down her request for more time above the standard 45 minutes in breaks allowed during exam. She says she risks medical complications, including engorgement and inflammation, if she does not nurse her daughter or pump breast milk every two to three hours.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

Tourists are flocking to Colombia for a vacation and surgical makeovers. Cosmetic surgery tourism is on the rise in Colombia thanks to low costs and easy availability. Tourists from around the world are taking advantage of the opportunity to have procedures done and recover at the same resort. Now, the Colombian government is even getting on-board by hosting a health, beauty and fashion expo in the resort city of Cali to highlight the latest procedures and techniques. However, the government is warning tourists to check the credentials and background of any cosmetic doctors before committing to surgery.

News **9/26/07** **5pm** **:30**

It's a growing problem in America. New research shows many new moms are getting just three and a half hours sleep, about half what their parents used to get! In fact, the lack of sleep leads to many other problems in people's lives. A national study says sleepiness at work is costing companies 150 billion dollars a year and producing cranky workers! And then there are the accidents, figures suggest about 30% are caused by tired drivers. The good news is that more and more people are recognizing that sleep deprivation can be treated medically, although we often don't take action until some else makes us.

News **9/27/07** **5am** **:30**

Teens may develop symptoms of post-traumatic stress when one of their parents is diagnosed with cancer according to Dutch researchers who surveyed nearly 50 adolescents and their families in the year after a parent's cancer diagnosis. Within 4 months of the diagnosis, 29% of teens said they had developed symptoms such as anxiety, withdrawal, nightmares and even behavioral issues. Researchers say the symptoms were severe enough to require professional help. The cancer patients were able to pick up on their children's' emotional troubles slightly more than their spouses, likely, researchers say because the healthy parents were focusing on the well-being of the sick spouse.

News **9/27/07** **5am** **:30**

Another study shows how stress could be associated with a recurrence of breast cancer. The study included 94 women with breast cancer. Those who'd dealt with traumatic events, such as rape or child abuse, saw their breast cancer return within 2 and a half years. Those who'd endured stressful events such as divorce or a parent's death had a breast cancer recurrence after 3 years. And those who'd led fairly calm lives were disease-free for more than 5 years. Previous studies have suggested stress might alter the immune system.

News **9/27/07** **5am** **:30**

A blood test might someday be able to predict which breast cancer patients will have a recurrence of the disease. German scientists say they've been able to detect cancer cells circulating in the blood before and after chemotherapy treatment. These circulating tumor cells are known to be associated with a bad prognosis in women with advanced breast cancer.

News **9/27/07** **6pm** **:30**

A new study finds women who have just one or two alcoholic drinks a day, no matter what type of drink, raise their risk for breast cancer by 10%. One cancer researcher calls alcohol a hugely underestimated risk factor. Previous studies have shown a link between alcohol consumption and breast cancer, but there's been conflicting results on different types of alcohol.

News **9/28/07** **5am** **:30**

As many as one in seven women experience depression at some point in the 9 months before getting pregnant, during pregnancy, or 9 months after giving birth. That's according to a new study from Kaiser Permanente where researchers surveyed more than 4,000 women. Nearly three-quarters of the women who experienced post-partum depression were also depressed before they became pregnant leading researchers to suggest early intervention could be key.

News **9/28/07** **5am** **:30**

As if the risk for lung cancer wasn't enough... Here's another reason to resist smoking cigarettes. A new study finds the habit can increase the risk for erectile dysfunction in otherwise healthy men by 41-percent. And the more men smoked... The higher the risk. Men who smoked more than 20 cigarettes a day had a 65-percent increased risk for erectile dysfunction. The risk did not decrease among men who were able to quit smoking.

News **9/28/07** **6am** **:30**

Wal-mart says it is expanding its discount drug program to include 24 additional medicines for \$4.00. The expanded list includes drugs to treat glaucoma, attention deficit disorder, fungal infections and acne. Wal-mart says the \$4.00 prescription program has saved customers more than \$613,000,000 since it began last fall. Consumer groups point out that the discounts are only for generic drugs and not the high-priced brand-names.

News **9/28/07** **12pm** **:30**

The legislature has passed a bill providing another \$9.5 million in grants for distressed hospitals. The only thing left to do is for Governor Patrick to sign it! The bill will add to the \$28,000,000 in grants already set aside in the state budget for financially struggling health care facilities. Senator Gale Candaras of Wilbraham warned that without the extra money Providence Hospital in Holyoke might be forced to close, leaving hundreds of patients with nowhere to go.

News **9/28/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

People with asthma might be able to stop their symptoms if they stay away from cats! A National Institute of Health study of more than 10,000 people finds nearly 50% of asthma

cases are caused by allergic reactions. Nearly 30% of those cases are caused by a cat allergy. Other common triggers are a fungus called alternaria and white oak. Experts say this study shows allergens are a major trigger of asthma attacks, but there are many people whose asthma is NOT caused by allergic reactions.

News **9/28/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

The FDA is cracking down on prescription cough medicines containing the drug hydrocodone. Most of them, it seems, are not approved by the FDA. The agency is especially concerned about cough syrups marketed to small children. Hydrocodone is a painkiller and cough suppressant. It's in the drug vicodin, but even when legal it's a potent narcotic, possibly addictive. The FDA says there are only seven approved hydrocodone cough medicines, but hundreds of unapproved ones meaning they haven't been proven safe or effective. The agency has 400 reports of problems from nerve complications to stomach issues to heart attacks. The FDA is ordering manufacturers to stop making unapproved hydrocodone by the end of this year and the end of October for kids under six. Many these medicines are registered with the FDA even though they're not approved.

News **9/28/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Baystate Children's Hospital is hosting its 10th annual display of remembrance quilts in honor of children who lost their lives to illness and accidents. Over the past 10 years, the children's hospital has asked family and friends of children who passed away to contribute to a 'tapestry of memories' quilt. The quilt's made with memorabilia and pieces personal to each child, and will be featured in a special service tonight. During the service, families will decorate small squares that will be added to the tapestry of memories.

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

The premiums are going up for seniors and the disabled who are enrolled in the Medicare drug program. The average cost will go up about 9% next year for stand-alone drug plans. That's according to information just released by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. Most of the plans with the largest enrollment will increase their monthly premiums five to ten dollars a month.

News **9/29/07** **6am** **:30**

On Thursday the House and the Senate approved an additional \$9.5 million dollars in grant money for financially distressed hospitals across the state. If the governor signs the bill, more than half of the grant, \$5,000,000, will be headed to Holyoke. Vice President for the SPHS says without the money, the Providence Behavioral Health Hospital there may have to close, shutting-out hundreds of desperately needy methadone clinic patients. Fulco says between its Springfield and Holyoke clinics, the system serves between 800 and 1000 methadone users per day.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/09/07 5am :30

Boeing has unveiled its new aircraft, the 787 Dreamliner. Western Massachusetts workers have some special interest in the aircraft. Aerospace contractor, Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks, Connecticut provided multiple systems for the aircraft. Employees and their families watched the unveiling at the plant last night. For Hamilton Sundstrand employees, there was a special pride in seeing the aircraft make its debut. The 787 Dreamliner will be the world's first large commercial plane made mostly of carbon-fiber composites, which are lighter, more durable, and less prone to corrosion than aluminum.

News 07/13/07 5:30pm :30

New statistics from a local employment agency show that more people are looking for jobs. Futureworks in Springfield served 14,600 people in the past year. That's an 18% increase from the previous year at 12,400. The agency's executive director says that's partly because higher unemployment rates in our area: "This time of year graduating seniors are using their career centers at the colleges, but they're coming to us as well." According to Futureworks, retailers had the most job openings in fiscal year 2007.

News 07/16/07 6am :30

Senator John Kerry today will participate at a forum promoting jobs centered around clean and renewable energy development. The event is organized by Pittsfield State representative Benjamin Downing and Melrose State Senator Michael Festa. The green jobs forum is being held at Suffolk University Law School. Kerry says more than 10,000 people in Massachusetts work in green jobs.

News 07/16/07 5:30pm :30

A new federal study sheds light on illegal drug use by American workers. This report shows that most of the nation's millions of drug users and alcohol users have full time jobs. According to a new survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, one in 12 American workers use illegal drugs. The highest rates were among restaurant workers at 17.4% and construction workers at 15.1%. Among the lowest rates were teachers and social workers at 4%. The report warns that these workers are more prone to hurting themselves and others in the workplace. Drug users in the study also had higher levels of absenteeism and far higher job turnover rates. For most workers participating in this survey, marijuana was the drug of choice.

News 07/22/07 11pm :30

Workers earning minimum wage will be seeing a small increase in their paychecks starting this week. The new federal minimum wage will now be \$5.85 an hour, an increase of \$0.70. This marks the first time in ten years that the minimum wage has increased. A person working full time on the current minimum wage of \$5.15 will earn approximately \$12,000 before taxes.

News **07/24/07** **5am** **:30**

A multi-million dollar facility will be built at Bradley International Airport. It's one of many changes and will have a positive impact on the local economy. Executive jet company, Embraer, will build a multi-million dollar 45,000 square foot maintenance facility at Bradley International Airport for it's new line of executive jets. At a groundbreaking ceremony, the company said the site was chosen because of its locations and because the state was so easy to work with. Although exactly how much the facility will give back is unclear, the state knows big business means big money for the local economy. The facility is one of many recent positive additions to Bradley. The airport recently added Frontier Airlines to its roster and went truly international by including Amsterdam as its first destination overseas. The Embraer facility will be completed in 2008.

News **07/31/07** **5am** **:30**

The sudden closure of 13 local Wendy's restaurants this month displaced hundreds of employees. The abrupt closing of 13 Wendy's restaurants across western Massachusetts has left hundreds of workers unemployed. The franchise owner, Robert Burda, faces financial difficulties, and he closed the location with very little notice to employees. Around 350 employees lost their jobs, and many haven't received paychecks for their last two weeks work. Trying to alleviate some of the challenges for the unemployed Wendy's workers, some Friendly's franchises are lending a helping hand. Gary Glen, owner of three Friendly's franchises in Hadley, Northampton, and Florence wants to offer the former Wendy's workers employment at his restaurants. Debbie Byrnes, general manager of Friendly's in Florence, says, "We've seen in the interviews with a bunch of people on the news, and we thought if there's a way we could help them out and also help ourselves...in the fall, we do a lot of hiring. It would be a win-win for both situations." Many Friendly's employees, like others, are sympathetic to the challenges the former Wendy's workers face. The general manager in Florence hopes that Wendy's workers will reach out to seek employment at Friendly's, where they are willing to promptly train and place people into jobs.

News **08/01/07** **5am** **:30**

Outsourcing is threatening the jobs of many western Massachusetts workers. Specialized workers are in high demand, and some local businesses may be in trouble. Aerospace, military, and commercial aircraft all call upon Tell Tool. Precision machinists make these parts crucial for commercial and military aircrafts. Those machinists are in high demand. Tell Tool Inc., says, "We've seen a surge in military orders over the past three years, but the number one challenge is the shortage of machinists. Tell Tool is actually losing business from customers around the country because they don't have the workers. The Lt. Governor says

the Patrick administration has more training initiatives to prevent outsourcing American aircraft parts to China, Russia, or Singapore in an effort to keep people here in western Massachusetts.

News **08/07/07** **11pm** **:30**

A group of minority municipal workers claims the City of Springfield has consistently passed them over for promotions and raises with white workers typically land the better jobs or bigger paychecks. Eight city workers are alleging that, over the last few decades, many different departmental managers from Springfield have discriminated against them simply because of their race or ethnicity. From a worker in Housing Code Enforcement to a Treasury Department employee and even the Assistant Personnel Director for Springfield, eight plaintiffs have filed a class action race discrimination lawsuit against the City of Homes. The plaintiff's attorney says the suit also alleges that Springfield hasn't been complying with laws that require municipalities to actively recruit new minority employees. Members of this group say all they want are the promotions and raises they've earned.

News **08/14/07** **6am** **:30**

Your pay raise next year may not be a big one. A survey of human resource workers shows employers plan a 3.7% salary increase for 2008. That's down slightly from 3.9% this year. But the increase does beat the inflation rate of 2.7% for the fiscal year ending in June. Employees who will receive bonuses, though, will be happy. Employers plan to budget 12% of their salary funds for bonuses.

News **08/16/07** **11pm** **:30**

Members of the Massachusetts Association of Substitute Teachers gathered tonight in Chicopee to discuss ways to try to get a better hourly wage. They say they're underpaid compared to fill in teachers in other states and school districts and that they are also denied health benefits they feel they deserve. The substitute teachers hope to get stronger by eventually forming a union.

News **8/24/07** **5am** **:30**

The Republican newspaper in Springfield is cutting jobs and restructuring operations. The largest newspaper in western mass says the move was triggered by rising costs and changes in the market. Staff will be laid off, existing vacancies will be eliminated and current employees will be offered retirement incentives

News **8/26/07** **6pm** **:30.**

State employees may have to bring a dust rag to work. The janitors union has voted to go on strike, if they don't have a new contract by the time their current agreement expires on Friday. Some 10,000 New England janitors last went on strike for about a month five years ago. The AP reports the janitors want more money and better access to health care. They currently earn about \$10.00 an hour.

News **8/27/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

People in the manufacturing industry in Springfield say there are more jobs available than they're able to fill. That's why some industry leaders are partnering with STCC. The partnership agreement will include the creation of courses at STCC designed to address the needs of the precision manufacturing industry, along with internships in local firms. The industry's trade association estimates there are currently 400 openings in machine shops around western Massachusetts. Starting salaries are in the mid \$40,000 range.

News **8/27/07** **6am** **:30**

Construction workers could lose big if the housing market leads to a recession. Over 1,000,000 construction jobs could be lost. Although non-residential construction is currently offsetting the loss of residential construction jobs, recent upheaval in the credit markets could upset that balance according to the National Association of Home Builders. As projects are finished and if there are no new projects, job losses could dramatically increase. The job losses may be larger because growth was so steep.

News **8/27/07** **5am** **:30**

Looks like temporary jobs are getting more temporary. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, temporary employment has fallen for each of the past six months. Those jobs are often looked at as a buffer that gives companies the ability to respond to changing market conditions. Manpower says its revenue dropped 9% in the 2nd quarter because of lower demand. Analysts call the temp drop-off another sign of concern for the economic sector.

News **9/4/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

The Big E fair is just around the corner, and as the fair approaches the Eastern States Exposition is looking for workers. "The Big E" is the largest fair in New England, with more than one million visitors from all over the region coming to enjoy the festivities. The fair is looking to hire nearly 3,500 employees to help run the 17 day event. The exposition employment center opened its doors, inviting job seekers to fill out applications for food services, booth control and maintenance.

News **9/15/07** **6am** **:30**

After years of cutting jobs, the nation's largest airlines are recruiting new workers. For the first time since September 11th, airlines have hundreds of job openings. But they're having a harder time filling the positions. Airline jobs have decreased in pay, benefits and perks over the years, so carriers are using unusual methods of attracting new workers, by offering signing bonuses, referral fees, and holding open houses.

News **9/18/07** **5am** **:30**

Governor Deval Patrick is proposing three casinos for the Baystate which he says will generate billions of dollars and thousands of jobs. He's proposing three casinos for the Baystate, including Palmer as a possible site.

News

9/19/07

6am

:30

A new online survey conducted by the career web site experience-dot-com finds 95% of job seekers spend \$100-\$500 looking for a new job. Most of the costs stem from interview expenses, such as clothing, travel and lodging.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Smoking during the 3rd quarter of 2007. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/16/07 6am :30

According to the American Non-Smokers' Rights Foundation, the number of cities and counties that ban smoking in outdoor areas has soared from 30 in 1999 to 1,124 today. Those areas include parks, cafes, and concert venues and beaches. The group says many places that have indoor bans are expanding their smoking restrictions to the outside.

News 07/17/07 5:30pm :30

A group of senators say they want to make cigarettes more safe by proposing a bill to give the government broad new authority over tobacco. Supporters say the FDA could force manufacturers to make safer cigarettes or, at least, change the way they advertise. But the FDA says it doesn't want the authority. Tobacco giant Phillip Morris USA says it strongly supports the legislation. Not everyone agrees. Professor Mike Siegel of Boston University says, "Essentially, what this bill does is creates the perception among the public that we now have a safer product, when reality is that the product will likely still be as deadly as it is now." Opponents of this bill say it contains plenty of loopholes that would allow Congress to override the FDA if its regulation gets too aggressive.

News 07/18/07 5am :30

Throughout the country and here in western Massachusetts more and more cities are getting tough on smokers. There are non-smoking signs everywhere you look these days. The number of cities and counties with outdoor smoking bans jumped from 30 in 1999 to over 1,100 today. In June of 2004, former Governor Romney signed the Massachusetts smoke-free workplace law, issuing enclosed workplaces with one or more employees to be a smoke-free environment. Many non-smokers like the idea and hope to see it coming to their town soon.

News 07/19/07 6am :30

Health and Human Services is proposing legislation to tack on an extra \$0.61 onto each pack of cigarettes. The money would help fund children's health insurance. Many senators are calling for a tax increase that would bring overall funding for the program to \$60 billion over five years. President Bush warned he'll veto legislation that includes a cigarette tax hike.

News 07/19/07 11pm :30

A new study throws some weight behind Health Department smoking bans in restaurants and bars. A study of New York residents found nicotine byproduct levels went down nearly 50%

after the implementation of statewide restaurant and bar smoking bans. The researchers took saliva samples from 2,000 participants between 2003 and 2004, before and after the ban. They also found the number of cases in which they couldn't detect nicotine went up 20% after the ban.

News **07/24/07** **6am** **:30**

There is a proposal to increase the federal tax on cigars. Right now, that tax is less than five cents a cigar. The proposal would allow a 53% tax on the cost the distributor pays the manufacturer, allowing, in some cases, a tax of up to \$10 per cigar. The money would fund health care for children. The proposal in Congress would also raise the federal cigarette tax from about .39 per pack to \$1.00 per pack.

News **07/24/07** **5pm** **:30**

Smoking can put women at risk for early menopause, according to a new study. Researchers in Norway looked at over 2,000 women around age 60 and found smokers were 59% more likely to have gone through menopause before 45. The rate of early menopause nearly doubled in women who were the heaviest smokers. Experts say early menopause carries an increased risk of osteoporosis and heart disease.

News **07/26/07** **6am** **:30**

The Walt Disney Company has become the first major Hollywood studio to ban depictions of smoking in its films. The company says there will no longer be any smoking in its family-oriented, Disney-branded movies. It will "discourage" smoking in films distributed by its Touchstone and Miramax labels. In addition, Disney will place anti-smoking public service announcements on DVDs of any future films that feature cigarette smoking.

News **07/30/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

More evidence released today proves smoking during pregnancy can have a direct impact on an infant's health. Researchers in the Netherlands surveyed more than 450 women who had recently given birth and measured their infants' blood pressure levels. They found women who smoked during pregnancy had babies with higher blood pressure. Infants who were exposed to tobacco smoke weighed less, were shorter and had smaller chest circumference. The risk was particularly high in baby boys.

News **08/01/07** **12pm** **:30**

Smokers are smoking less. According to a new Gallup poll, 55% said they smoke less than a pack of cigarettes a day, and a majority of them said they want to quit. The poll also shows the percentage of people who smoke hasn't changed much since 1999. 21% of Americans smoke, which is 20% less than the number of people who smoked in 1944.

News **08/10/07** **6am** **:30**

Just because you don't inhale tobacco doesn't mean you're escaping dangerous carcinogens. Smokeless tobacco or "snuff" is a variation of chewing tobacco that users suck on by slipping it between their cheeks and gums. In a study comparing smokeless tobacco users to cigarette smokers, University of Minnesota researchers found those who used snuff were actually exposed to higher levels of certain carcinogens than smokers. Researchers say carcinogens like the one sampled in this study are byproducts of the curing process in which tobacco leaves are turned into cigarettes or smokeless tobacco.

News **08/14/07** **6am** **:30**

Cigarette smoking increases a person's risk for developing late age-related macular degeneration. The disease is a leading cause of blindness in the elderly. After following nearly 2,500 people over age 49, Australian researchers found the risk of age-related macular degeneration increased four fold for current smokers. Former smokers were also at an increased risk.

News **8/23/07** **6am** **:30**

Springfield area store clerks could face a fine if they are caught selling cigarettes to minors. Springfield city councilors voted unanimously in favor of adding store clerks to the list of people who must pay a fine if they sell cigarettes to minors. The Springfield City Council is considering charging not only the store, but also the clerks who sell to minors. If a clerk is caught they will pay \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for second, \$300 for the third.

News **8/27/07** **5pm** **:30**

Andover High School students will be fined \$100 if caught smoking. Parents came up with the idea of fining smokers. They argued that suspensions for smoking were hurting students' academic work and thought hitting offenders in the wallet would be more effective. The school committee approved the fine this month, along with a policy requiring completion of a tobacco education program and a meeting with parents for any teenager caught having a cigarette.

News **8/27/07** **5am** **:30**

More evidence on the dangers of smoking. A new study suggests lighting up increases your risk of developing head and neck cancers, especially among women. According to the National Cancer Institute, 500,000 people around the globe are diagnosed with cancers of the larynx, nasal passages, oral cavity and pharynx each year. Although men are three times as likely to be diagnosed with head and neck cancers. A new study shows the role of smoking plays a greater role in women with the disease. After analyzing data on over 475,000 people, researchers found 45% of head and neck cancers in men were linked to smoking, but the rate rose to 75% in women.

News **8/30/07** **11pm** **:30**

The State Department of Public Health is taking the wraps off a new web site designed to prevent teens from smoking. It's called "the84.org." It's an interactive website with information about the risks of smoking. It offers anti-smoking themed gear for sale, such as t-shirts. Local college students see the site as having greater appeal to high schoolers.

News **9/4/07** **12pm** **:30**

Watching movie characters light up could raise the risk in teenagers of becoming regular smokers. Previous studies have shown that teens who watch movies with smoking are more likely to try it themselves, but not all of them go on to become established smokers. This study looked at the movie watching and smoking habits of over 6,500 children from the ages of 10 to 14. Researchers then did follow-up interviews two years later. They found adolescents who were exposed to more smoking in movies were more likely to have smoked more than 100 cigarettes than those who watched fewer movie characters light up.

News **9/4/07** **12pm** **:30**

A review of research at Oklahoma State University shows pets are much more likely to develop several types of cancer when living in a home with smokers. They say cats are at greatest risk for mouth cancer because of their grooming habits. They lick up the cancer-causing carcinogens that accumulate on their fur. They say cats in smoking homes are twice as likely to develop malignant lymphoma, than cats in non-smoking homes. And dogs are susceptible to nasal tumors and lung cancer, depending on the breed.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

Church and school activities could play a big role in keeping teens away from cigarettes. After interviewing more than 800 ninth grade students in Flint, Michigan, University of Michigan researchers say Caucasian teens were more likely to smoke than their African-American peers. However, there were no racial disparities when it came to teens who were involved in extracurricular activities or programs at church. Those activities were found to be significant distractions to smoking.

News **9/6/07** **12pm** **:30**

Doctors are calling it the new crack cocaine. Drug abusers are getting high by smoking the powerful painkiller Oxycontin. Dr. Sean O'Hara treats drug addicts in San Diego. He says most Oxycontin abusers take the pills by swallowing them. But some will crush them and snort them or inject them like heroin. But now he says there's a new method, Smoking. Dr. O'Hara says he became aware of this new method about nine months ago when he began treating his first patient. Since then, 5 more users have come forward seeking his help. He says smoking Oxycontin appears to be spreading across the nation, like crack cocaine did years ago.

News **9/7/07** **6am** **:30**

Several cruise ships are snuffing out smoking, but smokers aren't taking the changes lightly. Angry smokers have canceled \$3,000,000 worth of bookings with Regent Sea Cruises since it announced in July that it would ban smoking in cabins and on balconies. That's despite smoking still being allowed in casinos and designated areas of bars. Royal Caribbean plans on following suit by January.

News **9/10/07** **11pm** **:30**

The Springfield city council tonight unanimously approved an ordinance that holds store employees personally responsible for selling tobacco products to minors. City councilor Bruce Stebbins says Springfield is one of the state's first cities to adopt this type of policy. The tougher tobacco policy which could result in fines for offending convenience store clerks could go into effect within two months.

News **9/14/07** **12pm** **:30**

More and more casinos are planning to eliminate smoking while gambling. Trump plaza hotel and casino in Atlantic City is the latest casino to announce it's putting a stop to smoking on the casino floor. In all, six of the eleven casinos in Atlantic City plan to ban smoking while gambling. A partial smoking ban enacted earlier this year in Atlantic City mandates at least 75% of casino floors be smoke-free.

News **9/19/07** **5pm** **:30**

A bill that would ban adults from smoking in cars when young children are passengers appears headed for defeat on Beacon Hill. The measure was heard by the legislature's transportation committee and while some lawmakers said smoking in cars carrying children isn't a very good idea, it's not criminal.

News **9/20/07** **5:30pm** **:30**

Being exposed to secondhand smoke could hurt teens' test scores in school. Temple university researchers examined the effects of cigarette smoke on children by looking at a study that began in 1958. They found secondhand smoke affected performance on standardized achievement tests. Exposure during adolescence was a bigger predictor of lower test scores than prenatal exposure. The study included more than 6,000 pregnant women and children.

News **9/28/07** **5am** **:30**

A new study finds the smoking habit can increase the risk for erectile dysfunction in otherwise healthy men by 41%. And the more men smoked, the higher the risk. Men who smoked more than 20 cigarettes a day had a 65% percent increased risk for erectile dysfunction. The risk did not decrease among men who were able to quit smoking.

News **9/28/07** **11pm** **:30**

A new manual's available for anyone interested in learning more about living in a smoke free environment. This report from the asthma regional council outlines the health benefits of going "smoke free" in your home. Just quitting smoking or pledging to smoke only outdoors is a step in the right direction.